This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

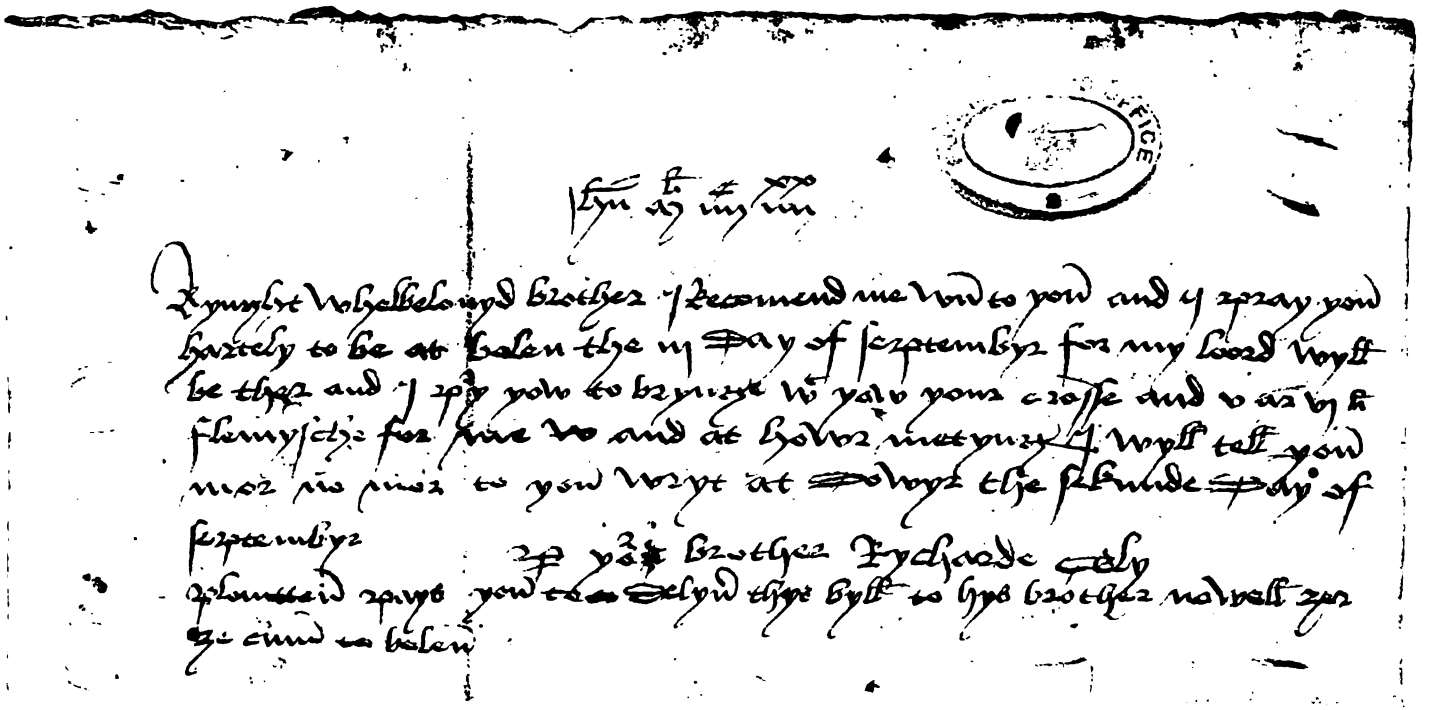
Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

Class

THE CELY PAPERS

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA



FACSIMILE OF ONE OF THE CELY LETTERS, DATED SEPTEMBER 2, 1480. *No.* 87.

THE CELY PAPERS

SELECTIONS FROM THE

CORRESPONDENCE AND MEMORANDA OF THE CELY FAMILY

MERCHANTS OF THE STAPLE

A.D. 1475-1488

EDITED FOR THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY

HENRY ELLIOT MALDEN, M.A.

LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
39 PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON
NEW YORK AND BOMBAY
1900.

All rights reserved

DA21
R8
sw3
v.1

INTRODUCTION

THE Cely Papers, from which the following Letters, Bills and Memoranda are a selection, were found some years ago amongst the Chancery Miscellanea preserved in the Public Record Office, together with a portion of the Darrell, Stonor, Johnson and Fanshawe collections. Of these, the Darrell Papers were used by the late Mr. C. Long for the purpose of his articles on Wild Darrell in the 'Wiltshire Archæological Magazine.' They, with some Stonor and Cely Papers, were preserved at that date in a portfolio amongst the Tower Miscellaneous Rolls (No. 458). As a considerable body of additional Chancery correspondence was brought to light by Sir Henry Maxwell Lyte, the present Deputy Keeper, these scattered papers were placed in their proper position amongst the Mediæval State Papers, where they form the latest portion of the new series of 'Ancient Correspondence.' The Letters and other documents here printed form only a part of the voluminous mass of Cely Papers. Many long and intricate accounts, many small notes of sales, and some letters of no interest have been omitted. Of the letters included, many are trivial, and some of the notes on sales or on exchange are comparatively of little interest. They form, however, a fair sample of the rest. Some of the unprinted documents are badly damaged by damp and time.

It is to be regretted that the series of Letters is not continuous. They extend from 1475 to 1488, but are more frequent in 1480, 1481, and especially in 1482. In 1483 there is the very interesting, but obscure, reference to the revolution which set Richard III.

upon the throne. Otherwise the politics of Flanders are of more interest to the writers than those of England.

The Cely family, the writers of these Letters, were merchan·s of the Staple doing business in London, in the latter part of the fifteenth century. The family was, perhaps, Cornish in origin, but at this time they owned land in Essex at 'Brytys Place,' later called Bretts, in Alveley, or Aveley parish, Essex. The head of the family was Richard Cely, who died either quite at the end of 1481, or very early in 1482. He was alive and well in November 1481, and his death is referred to in January 1482. His three sons were Richard, Robert and George. Richard was the eldest son. He administered his father's estate after his death, set up his 'twmbe,' and resided at 'Brytys Place.' It is not clear if Robert or George came next. Robert appears as being in London and writing business letters in 1477, when George was at Calais, the usual post of a junior member of the firm. But Robert, as we shall see, was a ne'er-do-well, who dropped out of the business altogether, and was befriended by George with more generosity than wisdom, in Richard's judgment, in a way which rather suggests that George was the elder. We hear of a John Cely, who, writing to George, speaks of my sister, your aunt; whence we should suppose he was old Richard's brother, though George also calls him cousin. Old William Cely is also mentioned—perhaps another brother of the elder generation. After old Richard's death, a William Cely is the agent in Calais, not a brother to Richard and George; he writes to them as his masters. He was presumably a cousin, son to old William or John. One William Maryon is also, apparently, a member of the firm, or at least accustomed to act with them. He was godfather to Richard the younger. He has a nephew,[a] Robert Eyryk, who was George's godson, as we gather from himself. He prays George to be 'my god godfader' in a certain matter, that is, of lending him 40*l.* without security. '*Nihil* for the xl[li] of Robert Erykkes,' notes George.

[a] See Letters of April 18 and 20, 1482.

The whole family and their connexions were continually passing backwards and forwards between England, Calais and Flanders, except old Richard, who at the date of the Letters confined his journeys to England. It was the business of one junior member to superintend the business in Calais, and to travel thence, with more or less peril in time of war, to the various marts in Flanders. In England there was need of frequent journeys to buy wool and fells, generally down to Gloucestershire. The mention of the family is hardly complete without adding their trusty servant, Joyce Parmenter, whose name suffers peculiar indignities from the cacography of his betters, and becomes Goos sometimes. Parmenter was, no doubt, an Essex man; it is an Eastern Counties name.

There is no trace in the Letters of any connection with Staple Inn in Holborn. The London residence and place of business of the Celys was in Mark Lane. Their wool was weighed for the assessment of custom and subsidy at the Leadenhall. Mark Lane is indifferently spelt Mark, Marke, Martte, Marthe or the Martt. Mark is a corruption, no doubt. 'The Mart' also existed in Calais and at Bruges, and elsewhere in the Netherlands. It is near the river and under the shadow almost of the Tower that we must place the centre of the English wool trade, not in a distant suburb. We can even settle approximately in what part of Mark Lane they lived. The northern half of Mark Lane is, or was, in the parish of All Hallows, Staining; the southernmost quarter, about, in that of All Hallows, Barking. The remainder is in that of St. Olave's, Hart Street; and this was the church to which the Celys gave offerings, though they conceal the fact by writing of it as 'Sent Tolowys scryssche.' They lived, therefore, probably rather south of the middle of Mark Lane.

Richard Cely, jun., who wrote 'Sent Tolowys,' also writes 'Sent Telen' and 'Sent Tanys' for St. Helen and St. Anne's, and buys 'a nox' for sixteen shillings.

Nevertheless, with many eccentricities of spelling, Richard, jun.,

and George write and spell better, and use better English, than their father, Richard, or than most of the casual correspondents whose letters are included. The spelling is usually fairly phonetic, but certain passages of evidently careless writing and omission of words defy any but conjectural emendation. Perhaps the worst writer of all is Sir John Weston, the Prior of the Hospitallers. Only one letter of his is printed. References to him are very numerous. He, *ex-officio* premier baron of England, seems to have usually resided on his Essex estates close to the Celys. To them he is 'My Lord,' though their land was not held of him. It is significant of the state of society that they had coats made of his livery. It extends our view of the evil, against which Henry VII. set himself successfully, to find well-to-do merchants becoming the dependents in that way of a nobleman, and to see a quasi-spiritual peer providing a following, as any Neville or Stafford might have done. Liveried retainers of this stamp were worth a hundred grooms or yeomen, being as times went distinctly rich men.

The Merchants of the Staple, the corporation to which the Celys belonged, were the most notable trade association of England. From the time of Edward I., after an abortive attempt by Edward III. to let trade find its own channels, English Governments successively pursued the policy of establishing Staples for the sale of English produce, forcing export trade into certain centres of distribution. In 1363 the only Staple for the chief English goods was fixed at Calais; 'no wools, skins, worsteds, cheese, butter, lead, tin, coal or grindstones' were to be exported from England, except to Calais. The Staple was removed several times from place to place: it was re-established in England, it was removed to Calais again, then back to England, and finally established at Calais in 1423 (2 Hen. VI. c. 4). By statutes 3 Edw. IV. c. 1, and 4 Edw. IV. c. 3, the Staple at Calais was confirmed. All staple produce, wool, fells, lead, tin, &c., were to pass directly from England to Calais. From the four northern counties, Richmondshire and Northallertonshire, they were to go to

Newcastle, and thence to Calais only. The Merchants of the Staple were practically incorporated by the Ordinance of the Staple, the joint work of the Council in 1353 and the Parliament of 1354, embodied in 27 Edw. III. cc. 21 to 28. A mayor and two constables were to be chosen yearly in every staple town, 'having knowledge of the Law-Merchant, to govern the Staple.' Correctors were to be appointed to make and record bargains, two merchants aliens were to be chosen as associates in judgment to the mayor and constables, and six mediators in questions between buyers and sellers. All other town franchises were to give way to those of the Staplers. 'We will, grant and ordain that all the said things be firmly kept and holden, in all points, notwithstanding franchise, custom, privilege, exemption, judgements or other grants made to Cities, Boroughs, Towns, Commonalties, people of the Five Ports, other Ports, or any other singular persons whatsoever. . . . Saving in other things to the Prelates, Dukes, Earls, Barons and other Lords, their Fairs, Markets, Hundreds, Wapentakes, Leets, Jurisdictions, Courts, Franchises, and Privileges, and all other things to them pertaining in the places where the Staples be.'*

So long as the Staple was occasionally fixed in English towns the rights of lords in fairs might clash with the privileges of the merchants. When, as for a time under Edward III., it was fixed in Flemish cities, local rights could not be overridden. But there were no fairs or franchises in Calais which could interfere with the control of trade there by the Staplers. There was a corporation in Calais apart from them. We learn in the Letter of February 24, $148\frac{3}{4}$, that aldermen of Calais who are also freemen of the Staple have been compelled by the Court of the Staple to give up one position or the other. But the functions of the municipality must have been purely parochial. The royal authority in Calais, apart from trade matters, was vested in the military offices of the Captain of Calais and his Lieutenant. The Court of the Staple drew to itself all civil business in which Staplers were concerned.

* Ordinance of the Staple.

A recognisance 'in the nature of a Statute Staple,' upon real property in England was executed in the Calais court. Spiritual cases were, of course, under the jurisdiction of the Bishop's court. Calais was attached to the See of Canterbury. But it was practically only the royal authority, and royal licenses granted to individuals for special trading, which overruled the administration of the Staple. Royal convenience was, of course, the most obvious cause for the fixing of Staples anywhere.* So much of the royal revenue was drawn from the subsidy on wool and wool fells that the convenience, and probably the profit, of the Exchequer were concerned in concentrating the trade. Half the price of wool at Calais was commonly paid in bullion, which was supposed to be recoined in the Mint at Calais. Practically, it appears clearly from the Letters, *passim*, that foreign money circulated there. It appears (Letter, May 8, 1478) that the soldiers were not always paid in sterling. One great *item* of royal expenditure was the payment of the garrison at Calais. The garrisons of Calais and of Berwick, when in English hands, were practically the only standing military forces kept up by the Crown, and the collection of revenue in Calais was a convenience for paying the soldiers; which (Letter, May 8, 1478) seems to have been done sometimes directly through the merchants. Possibly also, the price of wool being somewhat increased by its transport to Calais, the subsidy, of so much a sack, did not appear to the merchants so large a proportion of the cost as it would have done if levied in the country of origin. We find the Celys paying, or owing, such sums as 93*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* and 75*l.* 13*s.* 1¼*d.* for Customs and subsidy.

From the Letter of July 11, 1480, it appears that the Custom and subsidy was paid in the first instance by the Fellowship of the Staple, and repaid to them by individual merchants. This was

* The incorporation of the merchants was perhaps intended to strengthen the King's power of negotiating with them for grants of money, apart from the rest of the commonalty. They formed almost a separate estate of the realm, and, as was the case with the clergy, the Crown could offer them privileges in return for subsidies behind the back of the Parliament.

an obvious convenience to the Exchequer, which dealt directly with a wealthy corporation, instead of with the several individual members.

But other reasons also governed the policy of the establishment of staple towns generally. We are inclined to see in them a grievous hindrance to trade, and a certain means for raising the price of goods. But trade, apart from Staples, was in the nature of things not free in the Middle Ages.

The insecurity of roads, even in peace time, the greater insecurity of the seas, illustrated continually in these Letters, the frequency of wars, the existence of local privileges, tolls and restrictions, rendered any unprotected trade very irregular and uncertain. Fraudulent trading and dealing, the recovery of debts, the settlement of any personal disputes between merchants, were more easily dealt with if merchants were incorporated, and did their business only in certain places. Specially, their persons and goods were far more easily defended. Africa and the South Seas afford abundant illustrations of the mischief done by irresponsible private traders in those days. Though England and Flanders in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries were not quite on a level with the Niger territory and New Guinea, yet they were probably rather nearer to the former in social conditions than they were to the England and Belgium of to-day. Restrictions of individual liberty are the natural penalty of an imperfect civilisation, and the imperfectly civilised, in the fourteenth or any other century, usually admit it. It does not appear that the establishment of the Staple was contrary to the general wishes of the age.

Very stringent regulations were made to guard against fraud in the packing of wool, or in its description. No grower of wool was to mix earth, hair, sand, or other rubbish with his wool.[a] No collector of wool was to suffer any wool to be packed outside the

[a] *Hodie*, the burrs in wool, are the great difficulty to the manufacturer. Messrs. Harmel Frères, and Holden of Rheims and Bradford, have adopted a 'burring' machine, which partly overcomes it, but carelessness, much more fraud, in allowing foreign matters to be mixed with wool, very seriously damage it. See Burnley, *History of Wool and Wool-combing*, p. 96, &c.

limits of the county from which it came, or, in the case of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, outside the riding or part of the county to which it belonged. He was to be sworn in before the Exchequer to exercise his calling uprightly, and was to seal each package with a seal appointed by the Crown, in such a manner that the package could not be opened without breaking the seal. The collectors of Customs in the various ports were to make entries in their books of the names of merchants shipping wool, its quantity and description, and were to return the entries within a month to the Lord Treasurer. Wool taken to Calais in or before the February of any year, and remaining unsold by April 6 following, was classed as old wool. We must remember that it must have been shorn in the previous summer; none would be cut in autumn or winter. The great winter shipping was, in fact, of fells (skins with the wool on them) of sheep killed in the autumn. In the absence of root crops and of winter feed of any kind, a great slaughter of cattle, large and small, took place at or before Martinmas. The flesh was salted down for the winter.

One sarpler of such old wool was to be sold with every three of new, but such old wool was to be inspected in Calais, and no buyer was to be forced to pay more for it than for new of the same kind or county, nor more than it was valued at on first coming to Calais. If any fraud were discovered in connexion with this old wool, it was to be adjudicated upon by men appointed by the Captain or Lieutenant of Calais, but not by the same men who had been concerned with its prior valuation.

No merchant, or clothmaker, accustomed to buy wool of only one place or quality was to be compelled to buy another kind. But a merchant accustomed to buy various kinds was to be compelled to buy old wool of the kinds he usually bought, if it remained unsold in the market, subject to an examination of the quality.

At Calais royal officers (*commissarii*) were appointed to exercise a general superintendence over the working of these rules, and the conduct of packers, clerks of the Customs, and others. They were,

moreover, charged with the inspection of all wool brought to Calais, in order to see if it were properly described and labelled in England; and they employed two skilled packers, sworn to a faithful discharge of their duty, who were to examine, repack, reseal, and describe all packages.

Finally, the same *commissarii* were to make a report to the Treasurer and the Barons of the Exchequer upon the wool brought to Calais, which would serve as a check upon the report of the Custom-house officers in England. If any official were caught in delinquency, his punishment was to be such as to be a warning to others. If any merchant transgressed, his wool was forfeited to the king.[a]

The precautions appear ample. But that wool was misdescribed, that it was adulterated, that it was sometimes practically bought in England, not at Calais, amply appears from the Letters.

The Staplers, our writers among them, of course complained of bad times. The wars in France of the fifteenth century, and the consequent insecurity of the seas, the wars between Burgundy and France, and the civil wars in England, all hit them severely. In spite of the often repeated fiction that the Wars of the Roses were hurtful only to the nobility and their retainers, the consequent lawlessness and state of insecurity must have interfered with the collection of the staple produce in England. The prosperity of graziers and sheep farmers was not promoted by the march of armies, especially of the Lancastrian border thieves. This trouble, however, was over when these Letters begin. The produce gathered in England was paid for by bills due at six months, usually. To honour these the merchants had in turn to receive the money due to them from the foreign buyers, and there often were delays in their payments, which affected the payments in England. The Cely Letters show us continually how the principals in London depended upon consignments from Calais for money to satisfy their Cotswold wool dealers. The rate of exchange abroad between English and foreign coinage was another fruitful source of trouble.

[a] Rymer, xii. 80, &c.

But at the period when the Letters were written, from the latter part of Edward the Fourth's to the earlier part of Henry the Seventh's reign, it appears that the Celys, at all events, were prosperous men. They own land, they buy hawks and horses, they give rich presents, they turn over 2,000*l.* worth of wool a year, and negotiate with rich gentlemen for their daughters in marriage. The Spanish wools had not yet come into serious competition with the English in the markets of Flanders, and in political affairs it is only the Flemish civil wars, and the progress of French aggression, which give them real cause for uneasiness.

The great customers for the wool at Calais were, of course, the Netherlanders. Bruges, Ghent, Ypres, Mechlin, Middleburgh, and Delft seem to have been the places whence the principal dealers came to the Celys. The Venetians and Lombards—the Florentines are once named also—did some trade. But the real market was Flanders. The political relations, therefore, of England with the Flemish towns, or with their nominal rulers, not always by any means allied parties, became of the highest consequence. It is scarcely too much to say that our relations with Flanders were the dominant influence in English foreign politics for the whole of the fifteenth and most of the sixteenth century.

Calais, the gate of English trade with Flanders, was itself a Flemish town in origin. Baldwin IV. of Flanders, overlord of Boulogne and Guines, had begun the port in the early part of the eleventh century, when the decay of the harbour of Wissant, the Roman *Portus Itius*, the ancient harbour of that coast, had become serious, from the encroachments of the sand. But it was not till 1228 that Philip, Count of Boulogne, fortified Calais, and turned it from a village into a walled town with a castle. It was in the county of Guines, which had passed from Flanders to the direct overlordship of France, under Philip Augustus. This king's natural son Philip married the heiress of Boulogne, and the overlordship of Guines was granted to him. In 1282 Guines was bought by the French Crown, but was

regranted to the descendants of the original counts, to be held of the Crown directly. In the fourteenth century the inhabitants of Calais were notorious for their piracy in the Channel, and it was, perhaps, chiefly with a view to the security of the seas that Edward III. made such efforts for its reduction. But once in English hands, settled by English people, and made an English town, its advantages became obvious as a part of the defences of the Channel and a port of communication with Flanders. It was easily defensible on the land side, from being surrounded by marshes which were readily laid under water. It was the best harbour, though not a first-rate one even then, east of Cape Grisnez and west of Ostend, in the days before the port of Dunkirk had been improved. It was rather less dangerous of approach, from sandbanks, than any of the Flemish ports to the eastward, Ostend included. It was accessible from Dover or Hythe in the prevailing south-westerly Channel winds, when the square-rigged mediæval ships, which could sail with the wind abeam, but would have had great difficulty in beating to windward, could not get past Grisnez to Ambleteuse, Wimereux, or Boulogne. While an east or south-easterly wind, which would keep the Cinque Port ships at Sandwich or Dover in harbour, would allow ships of war to get out from Calais and to run down or across the Channel. Calais had a subsidiary use as a gate of entrance into France. Edward invaded France by it in 1355 and 1359, and John of Gaunt marched from Calais to Bordeaux in 1372. But the invasions of Edward's reign as often proceeded directly to Normandy, as Henry V. did afterwards, or marched from Guienne. With Flanders as an ally, which was usually the case in our serious French wars, the English did not really need Calais as a base of operations.

As a consequence of these wars Calais became isolated from France altogether. By the Treaty of Arras, in 1435, between Philip of Burgundy and Charles VII., when the former left the English alliance, Boulogne and the county of Artois were ceded to him, in full sovereignty, for his life. Thus the town and terri-

tory of Calais became entirely cut off from the immediate neighbourhood of the French territory, and were surrounded by the possessions of the Duke of Burgundy. The Duke certainly intended to round off his dominions by its acquisition, and immediately undertook operations against it. The motives of the Flemings, if not of the Duke, are revealed by a letter under the Privy Seal, sent to the city of Salisbury, and preserved in the City Book or Register called Ledger A. 1.*

The English Government told the citizens that they had sure information from Ghent that the Flemish towns had agreed to help the Duke to take Calais, on consideration of certain concessions at home, and on consideration that no Englishman should be allowed to sell any English cloth at any mart in the dominions of the Duke; and that the wool in Calais should be freely divided among the Flemish towns, without the Duke or his officers sharing. If these were the genuine demands of the Flemings, they say a good deal for the development of the English cloth-making, which clearly competed with the Flemings in their own markets. But the immediate plunder of what wool might be in Calais would have been a poor compensation to the Flemings for a possibly lasting breach with England. The exact articles of agreement made in Flanders were translated as follows by the English Government for the benefit of their people:—

Second Article: 'Yt non Englishman shal be suffrid to selle non Englissh cloth at non mart wythinne ye lordshipes of ye seid Duyk.'

Fifth Article: 'Yt ye Tounes of Flaundres haue ye Wollys of Calys departid among hem withoute lettyng of hym or his officers, yf yey mowe gete yaym.'

See reference in the Salisbury book, as above. Surely the last clause of the fifth article was added by the English translator!

However, the attempt on Calais was unsuccessful, and without

* Salisbury Ledger A. 1, fo. 105 β.

a prospect of making this conquest any immediate cause for hostility on the part of Burgundy against England ceased. A truce for three years between England and Burgundy ensued in 1439, which was renewed in 1442. The permanent interests of England and of Flanders, bound together so closely by trade, resumed their sway. Philip was much more anxious to keep his turbulent Flemish towns in good humour than to aid his nominal liege lord in turning the English out of Normandy and Guienne. But the consequence of the new political arrangements was that Calais ceased to be for England a place of arms in France. It became a fortified depôt of goods in Burgundy, whence trade was carried on with Burgundian subjects.

The French Crown, always anxious to readjust the almost ruinously hard bargain by which in its extremity it had purchased the withdrawal of Burgundy from active co-operation with England, still cast longing eyes on Calais. Its acquisition would have strengthened France and injured both England and Burgundy. Consequently in the days of need for the House of Lancaster, when the policy of the dethroned dynasty was chiefly directed by a French queen, in 1462, Louis XI. supported Margaret of Anjou on condition of receiving Calais.[a] The Lancastrians had actually given up Berwick to the Scots the year before. Only their want of success prevented the surrender of Calais to the French. But the aims of the French drove the Duke of Burgundy perforce upon the Yorkist side. Philip the Good was married to Isabella of Portugal, a granddaughter of John of Gaunt, but his successor Charles made a treaty with Edward IV. in 1467, and in 1468 married Edward's sister Margaret. His aid enabled his brother-in-law to invade England and recover his throne in 1471, overcoming the Warwick-Lancaster combination, which was supported by Louis XI.

[a] According to De Comines, Louis always had in view the possibility of recovering Calais, but on his deathbed warned his son not to attempt it. He knew that it would, if attempted, make England the active ally of Burgundy.

Everything seemed to point to a continued close alliance between Charles and Edward. Charles was working, in blundering fashion, for the restoring of the 'Middle Kingdom,' reaching from the North Sea to the Alps, and meanwhile for the acquisition of all that he could get on the Somme, or on the frontiers of the Duchy of Burgundy. Edward's enemies were still supported by Louis, and the English kings had never formally laid aside their absurd claims to the French Crown, nor their legal claims to lands in France. But herein lay one cause of difference between England and Burgundy. By the treaty of Peronne, in 1468, Charles had acquired the county of Ponthieu, which England claimed. Other English claims were far too extensive to suit the policy of Charles; and Edward, on his part, was probably statesman enough to know that if England and Burgundy, combined together, made great conquests in France, Burgundy would not be content to let England take the lion's share. His real interest was the strengthening of his throne in England, and the Burgundian alliance was useful to him so far as it imposed a check upon France, and upon the malcontents whom France might support. That Burgundy and the English market in Flanders were in danger from French invasion scarcely appeared credible before 1476.

But whatever his ulterior designs might be, Edward in 1473 began apparently serious preparations for a great invasion of France, in conjunction with the Duke of Burgundy. In 1473, 1474, 1475, a Parliament, completely under the King's influence, voted tenths and fifteenths, and in the second year an additional sum of £51,000. The King also raised money by Benevolences. In 1474 he concluded an alliance with Charles for the deposition of Louis XI. In 1475 he crossed from Dover to Calais with the finest army which an English king had ever led into France: 1500 men-at arms with mounted attendants, 15,000 mounted archers, and foot soldiers besides. The Duke supplied him with 500 *scuts*, vessels from Holland and Zealand suitable for transport; but it

nevertheless took three weeks to convey the whole expedition to Calais. An advance into France was only possible through the Burgundian territory, and the Duke himself came to welcome his ally. He brought, however, no army with him. His troops had suffered heavy losses in his unsuccessful attack on Neuss, and the bulk of the survivors were pursuing other objects in Lorraine. He probably meant the English to fight the French King for him. Edward had no intention of doing anything of the kind. Louis, for his part, had no intention of fighting if he could help it. He bought off Edward. Seventy-five thousand crowns down, a payment of 50,000 crowns a year—which the French called a bribe and the English a tribute—procured Edward's retreat. The treaty of Pecquigni stipulated for a peace between the kings for nine years and the marriage of Edward's daughter Elizabeth with the Dauphin. Edward had probably secured all the objects which he had proposed to himself. He had made a demonstration of his power as a make-weight in the contests of France and Burgundy; he had strengthened his dynasty by the French treaty and had filled his pockets. The proceedings were not glorious nor honourable, scarcely dignified, but all legitimate objects for the crown and realm of England were really secured. In September of the same year (1475) Charles made a truce with Louis for nine years at Soleuvre. He turned to push his schemes in Lorraine; and Louis, truce or no truce, continued his steady policy of stirring up enemies against him.

In 1476 a rapid and startling change came over the politics of Western Europe. Events move faster in the nineteenth than in the fifteenth century, but the effect of the collapse of the military power of the French Empire in a month in 1870 scarcely made a more profound and sudden impression than the successive defeats of the Duke, within a few months, by the Swiss and other Germans, at Granson in March, at Morat in June, and finally at Nancy, where he was killed, January 5, 1477. The great check on French power was suddenly removed, and a girl was left to hold together

as best she could the disjointed dominions of the late most formidable prince in Europe. A great part of those dominions almost at once fell into the hands of Louis, and the preservation of the Netherlands from French influence became again a pressing subject for English care.

French and Imperial fiefs held by the young heiress of Burgundy were at first indiscriminately seized by Louis. Subsequently knowing that he could not hold all, he prudently surrendered some of the latter, but he kept every French fief which by force or treachery he could win. The county of Boulogne and most of Picardy and Artois passed into his hands in 1477, and Calais became again nearly surrounded by territory immediately under the French Crown. Flanders itself was an ancient appanage of the Crown of France. The Gantois practically held their Duchess a prisoner, murdered her ministers, and dictated her policy. They were scarcely likely to throw themselves knowingly into the hands of Louis, but by their action they were contributing to the general break-up of the Burgundian dominions, which might well result in the acquisition by France of a real supremacy over Flanders, which would be fatal to English commercial interests. The occasion seemed undoubtedly to call for a vigorous English interposition in aid of the Duchess.

But Edward was no longer the enterprising warrior of Barnet and Tewkesbury. Idle and voluptuous habits had undermined his energy. His court was divided by the factions of his brothers' and his wife's parties. The inglorious end of the great expedition of 1475 perhaps rendered another great effort difficult to manage. He suggested a marriage between the Duchess Mary and his own wife's brother, Earl Rivers. But the greatest heiress in Christendom would not agree to a match with a *parvenu*, and so the chance of enlisting the strongest interest about the King in favour of war was lost. Louis' 'tribute' still continued to arrive, and he did not spare bribes among Edward's courtiers. So though the promised steps for the marriage of the lady Elizabeth with the

Dauphin were not taken, England continued merely to negotiate and to be fooled.

One Englishwoman, the dowager Duchess Margaret, 'myn howlld Lady' of the Celys' Letters—she was about thirty-two—exerted herself vigorously in her step-daughter's cause. Her first idea was a marriage between Mary and her own brother Clarence. When this appeared to be considered impossible by all parties at the English Court she exerted her influence elsewhere.

Already, before the death of Charles the Bold, a negotiation had been set on foot for a marriage between his heiress and Maximilian of Austria, son of the Emperor Frederic. The dowager Duchess warmly espoused his cause. The young lady herself despatched an emissary to the Emperor and his son at Frankfort, and affirmed that in her father's lifetime she had already accepted the Archduke as her future husband. They had never met, and when they did it appeared that Maximilian could speak no French and she no German. But Maximilian in his youth was well fitted to engage her real affection. He was shifty and unstable, always in want of money, and, like the proverbial empty bag, unable to stand upright; but he had in him a touch of romance and knight-errantry, and was not without noble aspirations. A marriage with a rich heiress was attractive to himself and to his avaricious father, and a marriage with a damsel in distress appealed to his feelings of chivalry and adventure. He was not yet twenty. The Flemings were sensible that an alliance with the imperial overlord of half the Burgundian inheritance was a safeguard for them against French aggression; the dowager Duchess supported the scheme, and the marriage was hurried on. Maximilian arrived at Ghent on August 18, 1477, and the marriage was performed next day. The bride, slenderly attended, still wore mourning for the death of her father, and the union, so fraught with consequences for the future political arrangements of Europe, was celebrated without any of the pomp for which the Court of Burgundy had become famous. Louis had to make the best of what seemed for

him a bad business: St. Omer and Valenciennes were stubbornly resisting his arms. He had been unable to hold what he had seized in the county of Burgundy, and he agreed to a truce with the Dukes, as they were now called, at Lens in 1477. Hostilities were renewed in the course of 1478, but in June of that year another truce for a year was concluded, by which Louis agreed to evacuate the Imperial fief of Hainault, and all that he still held in the county of Burgundy, but kept his grip upon the duchy. He reverted to the policy which he preferred to war, to bribery in England, at the Imperial Court, in Liège and in Flanders, confident that the Flemings and Maximilian would not permanently agree.

In the breathing time allowed to them the Dukes were anxious to come to an agreement with England, which should keep their Flemish towns in good humour by safeguarding their commercial interests. The regulations under which the trade of the Staple was carried on at Calais afforded them just grounds for complaint. In July, English and Flemish envoys met at Lille for their consideration.[a] The agreement made and their negotiations throw a good deal of light upon the conditions of trade and the regulations of the Staple. Free intercourse by sea and land, freedom from molestation for merchants, sailors, and fishermen of the two countries, liberty for ships to enter any port under stress of weather, and to leave again without interference or payment, the forbidding of the purchase of goods from pirates, all appear as the ordinary rights of civilised neighbours. But that these rights required protection is abundantly evident from the expressions used, or facts recorded in many of the Cely Letters. Pirates, especially, were a constant danger. Reprisals and letters of marque, to right any alleged miscarriage of justice, had to be forbidden for six years. Englishmen were to be allowed to sue their debtors in the Flemish courts without hindrance, and in case of anticipated flight to demand security or the arrest of the

[a] Rymer, xii. 66 *seqq.*

defaulter. Similarly, Flemish creditors might proceed in England before the Court of the Chancellor, of the Constable, or of the *Magnum Concilium*,[a] in despite of all local ordinances and customs to the contrary, for the recovery of debts due in Flanders. English merchants might also export bullion from Flanders, after obtaining what we may call certificates of origin. The Flemings also complained that the English were in the habit of buying by a big pound and selling by a small pound; and that at Antwerp and Bruges, and other fairs, they made ordinances forbidding their merchants to buy except on the last day, whereby the Flemish sellers, anxious to get away, parted with their goods for insufficient prices. These practices were to be forbidden for the future by the English.

The English merchants of the Staple complained that Flemish subjects sometimes carried appeals from the ducal courts to the French courts, to their manifest injury. That *quædam astutia* was sometimes practised by Flemish debtors. When an English merchant was attempting to recover a debt in a Flemish town his debtor would advance a small sum more to one of his debtors, who would go to Calais and buy wool from the agent of the English creditor, partly for the ready money provided, partly on credit, and would bring the wool to the place where the English creditor and the original debtor were. Then the latter would seize it, as the property of his debtor, and satisfy the Englishman with his own wool. The Englishman was clearly swindled, but to make the transaction profitable to the Flemings the second debtor must have been a man of straw, with probably a fictitious debt and no property to distrain upon. The practice was, however, to be guarded against.

The Staplers also complained that wool which had not paid the subsidy, nor passed through their hands, found its way to Flanders.

[a] Does not this throw light on the disputed origin of the powers given to a Committee of the Council by the Act 3, Hen. VII. 5? It was a Committee of the Magnum Concilium, not of the Concilium Ordinarium.

This was to be carefully guarded against also. It appears probable that the Celys were not quite ignorant of how such wool sometimes got to Flanders (Letters of April 28, 1484).

Further complaints by the subjects of Burgundy were considered and partly remedied. They alleged that if they offered less than the price for wool fixed by the ordinance of the Staple, they were compelled to buy, presumably at the regulation rate, from the person to whom they had made an offer of less; that the money paid for wool went into the hands of the treasurer of the Staple, and was by him distributed among the merchants in proportion to the amount of wool which they had had in hand, not necessarily in proportion to the quantity sold; a grievance to both English and Flemish merchants; that the Staplers raised the price if they could not receive it in bullion; a not unnatural precaution; that washed and unwashed wools were mixed together. On all these points the English promised to give satisfaction.

On certain other matters, however, the English would not give way. The Flemings complained of fraudulent packing of wool, and of false descriptions of its origin being affixed to packages; to which the English only answered that their regulations made this impossible.

It was also the practice of the Staple to compel the purchaser of four lots of wool to take three of new and one of old, even though he only wished to buy new. If he were prepared to buy none but old, he was allowed to do so. The Flemings offered a compromise, and were willing to be compelled to take one of old to five of new. The English answered that the existing arrangement was itself a concession, and that formerly they had insisted on old and new being bought in equal quantities. The old was sold at the price at which it had been valued when brought to Calais. The English were clearly anxious to avoid the practice of the sales of surplus stock at an alarming sacrifice, which tempt modern country customers. If the wool was found after its removal by the buyer not to answer the description, the English insisted that it should be brought

back to Calais in order to have the fact established in the courts there. The Flemings vainly urged that it might be less of a loss for the buyer to put up with a bad bargain than to carry so bulky an article back again, with the uncertainty of after all obtaining justice. The English answered that if their sellers had to go to Flemish courts the wool might have meanwhile been tampered with in Flanders. They conceded, however, liberty to repudiate a bargain, and to return the wool if it were found to be below the stipulated quality.

It was ordained and established by law of old (*ab antiquo statutum et ordinatum*) that the pound for which wool was bought and sold should equal 22*s.* 8*d.*, whereas the English sellers now demanded 24*s.* for the pound. The English answered that the regulation rate of exchange should be certainly kept if the Flemish Government would keep their standard of money fixed; but that if not, it was impossible, and the rate of exchange must enter into the calculations of merchants making bargains. For once, perhaps, the English were reasonable.[a] With regard to a last complaint they took a high tone. The Flemings said that the King sent fine wool into France, paying no subsidy and not through the Staple, and that they had no opportunity of buying good wool cheap in like manner. They only got answer that the King was superior to all laws and ordinances, that he had done it once for his own convenience, and that his Highness would not do it again unless he saw cause. Which was, indeed, probable. *Qua responsione Oratores Dominorum Ducum non fuerunt contenti.*

The English answered generally to all complaints that their trade was extremely well looked after, and that the subjects of the Dukes could see as much in the ordinances of the Staple, which they submitted to their inspection. The *Oratores Dominorum*

[a] In 1480 the fixing of the comparative value of English and French money was made the subject of an agreement between Edward and Louis (Rymer, xii. 115). Edward had plenty of opportunity of appraising the value of French money.

Ducum made the general answer that with regard to these regulations, *credere se ita fuisse ordinatum, sed non omnino observatum.*

The whole course of the negotiations shows us England conscious of holding the upper hand. The Flemish towns were forced to take the English wool, having no other sufficient supply to fall back upon, and the English knew it. Neither was the Government of the Dukes in a position to do anything to irritate that of England during the existing crisis of their affairs.

It was of vital importance to Maximilian to secure the co-operation of England and of Bretagne. It was of equal moment for Louis to retain their neutrality, especially that of England. The Bishop of Elne was sent as an ambassador to propose the prolongation of the treaty of Pecquigni for a hundred years, with the accompanying payment of 50,000 crowns a year. One important point of the treaty had not been executed. No steps had been taken for the marriage between Elizabeth of York and the Dauphin, and the English suggested that the lady was now twelve years old and of an age to be married, and that as the delay was not of their seeking, the 60,000 francs which were to be her marriage portion from her father-in-law should be paid at once. Louis professed himself eager for the marriage, but the Dauphin was too young. It must perforce wait, and if Elizabeth should die her younger sister, Mary, would be accepted instead. The treaty was accordingly prolonged on February 15, 1479, and the marriage project remained in abeyance.

On the other side the Dowager Duchess of Burgundy was urgent to draw her brother into active alliance with Maximilian and Mary. She had a private ground of enmity against the French King because he had occupied part of her dower-lands near Cassel. She wrote urgently to her brother for redress, and though Edward would not commit himself to war, she persuaded him to allow 500 archers to pass over to the aid of Maximilian. A closer alliance was meditated. At Guildford, in August 16, 1479, a treaty was concluded by which Edward undertook that for three years he

would not make any other marriage contract for his daughter Anne than with Philip, the heir of Maximilian and Mary, provided that during those three years he was equally bound. The lady was four years, the gentleman about fourteen months old. One obstacle to any closer understanding was the poverty of Maximilian. He was quite unable to offer Edward any equivalent for the 'tribute' from the French King, which he would lose by a declaration of war.

Meanwhile the truce had been broken on April 26 by the Burgundians, who attacked the Château of Selles, near Cambrai, and war was resumed in the Netherlands. At Guinegate the French, venturing upon a pitched battle, contrary to the wishes of the King, were defeated, August 7. Five hundred English were engaged in the Duke's army. But the Burgundians lost heavily, and the Flemish militia returned to their towns after the battle, thinking that they had made their country safe from invasion. At sea the French managed to cut off the herring fleet of Holland and Zealand. The county of Burgundy also again was overrun by them. A war broke out in Guelders, which further involved Holland. The French attacked Luxemburg, and the Flemish towns entirely refused to grant money to the Dukes for its defence.

Indeed, Maximilian was becoming more and more an object of indifference first, and then of dislike to the Flemings. He was unable to enlist the forces and influence of the Empire in their favour, and was continually demanding money.

England was his chief reliance, and to keep England from active interference was Louis' chief aim. In May his ambassador in England, the Bishop of Elne, incurred his serious displeasure by negotiating a prolongation of the peace with Edward, in which the King included Maximilian.[a] Louis recalled his ambassador, refused to treat with England about the affairs of Burgundy, but

[a] Rymer, xii. 113.

as usual managed to send the English envoys, who came over to confirm the treaty, well satisfied away.

Nevertheless, in 1480, events seemed to be leading up to a rupture between France and England. Another truce, as ill-observed as usual, had been made between France and Burgundy, but the French were threatening St. Omer and Aire. The Dowager Duchess came over to England to see her brother. On August 5 the projected marriage between the infants Anne and Philip was confirmed by treaty.[a] On August 14 Edward undertook that if Louis would not desist from his threatening attitude upon the Flemish frontier, nor accept his mediation, he would assist Maximilian with 6,000 men. As open war would mean the loss of Edward's French pension, Maximilian undertook to make it good. His known inability to pay was glossed over by the stipulation that Edward should give a dower of 100,000 crowns with his daughter, which was to be set against the payment due from Maximilian. The Dukes were to settle property equal to 8,000 livres of Artois a year upon the bride. On August 24 Dr. Langton, Treasurer of Exeter,[b] and Sir John Weston, Prior of the Hospitallers in England, 'My Lord of St. John's' of the Letters, were appointed ambassadors to France to urge the long-delayed marriage of the lady Elizabeth with the Dauphin. Richard Cely went with them (Letters, September 2 and September 6, 1480). Sir John Middleton was empowered to raise troops for Flanders. Finally, the Dowager got her private reward. She was given the privilege for life of buying 1,000 oxen and 2,000 rams a year, and of exporting their skins, free of any duty or subsidy, to Holland, Zealand, or Flanders.[c]

The usual results followed. Louis was lavish of fair words and of money, and Maximilian practically threw over his ally, and his

[a] Rymer, xii. 128.

[b] Subsequently Bishop of St. David's in 1483, then Bishop of Winchester 1493 to 1501.

[c] Rymer, xii. 137.

agent, the Duchess, by prolonging his truce with France without consulting them.

In 1481 the embarrassments of Maximilian increased. Louis continued the war in Luxemburg, and enlisted the help of Ladislas of Bohemia, who had claims on the duchy. Maximilian was embroiled with the faction of the Hooks in Holland and Utrecht. The attitude of the Flemish towns became more and more refractory. He offered Edward Boulogne, Ponthieu, the towns on the Somme, Peronne, and Montdidier as the price of active help. But a diversion had been made which helped to keep Edward employed elsewhere. The French had urged the Scots, never loath to attack England, to hostilities upon the Borders, and a Scotch war had broken out in 1480. Attempts at accommodation failed, a Scotch embassy being stopped at Newcastle (Letter, January 23, 1481), and in 1481 a fleet and army were prepared against Edinburgh and Berwick. In 1482 the war continued. The Duke of Albany came from France to England, and accompanied the Duke of Gloucester, who may be considered the head of the war party, to Scotland. The two Dukes occupied Edinburgh, but Albany was then reconciled with his brother, the King, and the English withdrew with the one solid acquisition of Berwick.

These affairs, however, tended to keep Edward from war abroad. In March, 1481, Louis had an attack of apoplexy, and Edward assured Maximilian that he would only have to wait a short time before death would relieve him of his formidable adversary.

So matters went on through 1481, with war in Luxemburg and Guelderland, and an ill-observed truce on the Flemish border. In 1482 death claimed an unexpected victim. On March 27 the Duchess, Mary, died from an accident—a fall from her horse. The one tie between her husband and the Flemings was removed. The Gantois deprived him of the custody of his own children, governed the province in conjunction with the other towns over his head, and drove him to maintain himself as best he could in the rest of his

son's dominions by aid of some of the nobility and German mercenaries. The Flemings began to treat with France; Louis, conscious of failing health, desired to confirm his acquisitions by a peace.

France was exhausted, and the neighbouring countries were all in confusion and distress. In the formerly well-tilled fields of Flanders, Hainault, and Artois land was going out of cultivation, and wolves increased alarmingly.[a] An event occurred in this summer which showed the consequences of the prolonged war in the Netherlands. William d'Aremberg, called the Wild Boar of the Ardennes, a notorious freebooter, murdered his former benefactor, the Bishop of Liège, on August 30, tried to make the Chapter elect his own son as bishop, and began to draw together a formidable power in the bishopric. The neighbouring nobility and towns, with some of Maximilian's troops, united against him and quickly overcame him. But it was openly said that he was incited by the French, because the Bishop refused to join them. In William Cely's letter from Calais of September 12, 1482, the murder is directly attributed to the French. In one way it told in their favour, for it made a farther diversion of the Duke's forces from the Flemish frontier. The provinces were all tired of war, and united to press upon Maximilian the necessity of peace. Want of success, or means to continue the war, and the uncertainty of English help, forced him to concur.

On December 23, 1482, the treaty of Arras handed over his daughter Margaret to the custody of the French King as the future wife of the Dauphin, and gave her as dower the duchy and county of Burgundy, Artois, and much besides, to be administered in the name of the Dauphin. The long-promised match between the Dauphin and Edward's daughter was completely thrown over. The friendship of England was no longer of any particular value to Louis, at least not in comparison with his advantages by this second treaty of Arras, more than compensating by its gains for the losses sustained by the first, forty-seven years before. Yet up

[a] Kervyn de Lettenhove, *Histoire de Flandre.*

LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF

to the last he had cajoled the English King. On Palm Sunday, March 31, another French embassy, which had come to London, had been entertained by the mayor and all the crafts 'worschyppefullley' (Letter, April 2, 1482). They came three days too late to witness a disastrous experiment. 'The same day (March 28) 'whos the grehyt new gone of brasse shott at Mylezeynde at whos mad in the Towyr and hyt braste awll to pessys' (Letter, March 29, 1482). This embassy cannot have been despatched in consequence of any new turn of affairs following the death of Mary, the news of which came to England simultaneously with the ambassadors. It is reasonable to suppose that the object of the mission was merely to keep up the humouring of Edward in the usual fashion. It probably concluded the treaty of 1482, of amity between France and England for the lifetime of both the kings and for one year after the death of the prior deceased,[a] which the French King published in September to his subjects. Whether this treaty said anything about the Dauphin's marriage we do not know. At all events Edward saw himself at last by the treaty of Arras thoroughly duped and betrayed, and began warlike preparations in earnest. The noise of them breaks out in more than one of our Letters. But in April 1483 Edward himself died. On August 30 of the same year Louis followed. Richard III. had far too much trouble on his own hands at home to care to make war abroad. But France was hostile to him in fact, fearing him as a warlike king, honourably distinguished above other Englishmen as having never been bought by French money. Indeed, France overthrew Richard by supplying the means by which Henry VII. could invade England. 'Le Comte de Richmont fut couronné et institué Henri VII., par le confort et puissant subside du roi de France.'[b] On April 14, 1484, William Cely wrote from Calais that Flanders was likely to break with England. This can only be attributed to the influence

[a] *English Hist. R.*, July 1897. 'An Unknown Treaty between Edward IV. and Louis XI.'

[b] *Chroniques de Jean de Molinet.*

of the Dowager Duchess, who would be bitterly opposed to Richard as the murderer of her nephews and the supplanter of the children of her favourite brother Clarence. Margaret was still more the enemy of Henry VII., both as a Lancastrian and a French *protégé*. How she aided and abetted the Yorkist schemes against him is matter of common knowledge, but the Celys say nothing of it. Maximilian had become King of the Romans in 1486, and in December Henry received an embassy from him, and concluded a treaty with him and his son's council[a] for the renewal of the old treaties of commerce. They had interests partly in common against France; but the tangled skein of the affairs of Bretagne need not detain us here. Maximilian never counted for so much as his title and position seemed to imply. Throughout these years he was still at variance with the Flemish towns, and their open hostilities, as in 1483 and 1484, referred to in the Letters, sorely vexed the English merchants. He was again at war with the French also. In 1488 he made his famous attempt to secure Bruges. He rashly entered the city with a small force of German mercenaries and Burgundian followers. He intended to have a larger force admitted. But suspicions were aroused, the citizens flew to arms and secured the gates, and Maximilian found himself a prisoner amid an exasperated population, who made no delay in killing those suspected of sympathising with him. We learn from the Letters of January 22, February 19, and March 12, 1488, that Sir James Tyrrell had been at Bruges on a mission from England, and had been well received by both the towns and Maximilian; and that the expectation was that Maximilian would soon be master, if not that he 'muste flee hys weye owte of the contray or be destroyed,' and that he would grant England all that she could desire. Also we gather, contrary to the common account, that many of the more wealthy inhabitants of Bruges were considered as a rule friendly to the King of the Romans, but that the rabble of Bruges, allied with the men of Ghent, were in power, and making overtures

[a] Rymer, xii. 320.

to France. The ambassadors, who were to have gone to England, had fled to Sluys, and the more substantial inhabitants of Bruges were daily stealing away to Middleburg, fearing violence, not without reason. A reign of terror was established at Bruges. The Sire de Ghistelles, formerly Burgomaster, Pierre Lanchals, and many other citizens known for their support of the House of Burgundy perished on the scaffold. Ghent was more violent than Bruges. The citizens of Ypres alone were distinguished for their moderation, and their advice not to exasperate quarrels by reckless bloodshedding. All trade was dislocated in consequence of the troubles. The government of Bruges was revolutionised. The eight members of the trades chosen by the ducal commissioners to sit as part of the thirteen *échevins* who governed the city were replaced by eight others, apparently popularly elected (February 19, 1488). However, in 1489, Maximilian, by aid of a German force and the help of the other provinces, overcame Flanders, and for a season exercised some real authority as guardian to his son. Charles VIII. of France was more occupied with schemes in Bretagne and in Italy than in the Low Countries. Intent on marrying the heiress of Bretagne, he at last, in 1493, returned his affianced bride, the child Margaret, to her father, and restored Artois and the county of Burgundy with her. With small thanks to her own policy, England had still a Burgundian dominion, free from French control, as her customer; and the territory of Calais still marched with Burgundian Flanders and Artoia, as well as with French Boulogne.

The Letters mostly deal with a period when war was going on, or at best when truce was badly kept between France and Burgundy. But the state of insecurity prevailing at sea is very strikingly revealed by them. Piracies, or hostilities at sea, were not confined to the subjects of powers nominally at war, and it is abundantly manifest how very necessary it was for a Government to be strong and respected abroad if its subjects were to trade with any reasonable safety.

On May 14, 1482, William Cely writes to George at Bruges that an English ship was chased by two Frenchmen off Calais, but escaped. The Frenchmen were taken by ships from Calais. One of them was brought into Calais, the other taken to England. On June 23, 1482, we hear that Robert Eryke was chased by Scots between Calais and Dover. Scotland, however, was at war with England. On October 19, 1482, William Cely writes to George from Calais to London that it was a false report that his ship with his 'chamberyng' on board had been rifled by Flemings; it was another ship in her company. On March 25, 1484, we are told that the goods of Englishmen have been arrested at Nieuport to pay for the goods taken at sea by Englishmen from Ostend men. In Calais they wished to arrest Gyesbryght, a Fleming, in retaliation, but were dissuaded by the lieutenant. There was an agreement as old as Philip the Good's time, and confirmed by each subsequent Duke, that goods of either nation should be free from arrest in answer to depredations committed by fellow countrymen of the owners. A deputation was to go to the Council of Flanders at Ghent to remind them of this. On February 10, 1484, certain Flemings came to Calais *en route* to England to complain that their goods had been seized and carried into Sandwich, while the King (Richard III.) was there. They asked for the co-operation of the Staple in their recovery, because the Flemings restored English goods illegally seized.

On March 27, 1484, we read of a deputation from the Staple to Duke Philip and his Council of Flanders on the subject of Englishmen and Flemings being made answerable, in Flanders and Calais respectively, only for their own misdoings and not for those of their countrymen.

On February 24, 1484, it is 'certain banished Englishmen' who have taken five or six Spaniards laden with wine, bound for Flanders. February 29, 1484, a Frenchman has chased an English passenger ship into Dunkirk. On March 17 of the same year is reported a curious story of apparently combined piracy and pas-

senger carrying. William Cely writes to Richard and George: 'Item Syr on Fryday last past on Richard Awray that was master of my lord Denmanis schypp zede forthe a warfare in a schypp of hys owne and toke in merchauntes and sett them alond at Dower and at Dower toke in passage to Callez wardd agayne and as he cam to Callez ward ii men of warre of Frensche mett w^t^ hym and faught with hym and theyr he was slayne and diversse moe of hys company they saye viii or ix persones oon whos sowlles Iesu hawe mercy.'

France was in fact an enemy to Richard III., but there was no formal war, and we are not told how far Richard Awray had provoked his fate by his private warfare. Shortly afterwards (April 14, 1484) two Frenchmen chased passenger boats into Calais, and nearly took them. On January 22, 1488, 'My Lord of St. John's,' the Prior of the Hospitallers, could not venture out of Calais because of the Danes lying before the harbour.[a] On November 19, 1487, William Cely wrote that owing to the war between Ghent and Maximilian he had got away with difficulty from Bruges, had been stopped two days at Nieuport, and only allowed to proceed because he had passage in a ship on board which Sir James Tyrrell, the English ambassador, had goods. He advised his principals to leave this trade as too dangerous, and lay out their money in madder, wax, and fustian, and ship it in Spanish bottoms. Castile, perhaps, was more respected than England, while the Tudors were not yet firm in the saddle. Already, September 18, 1487, before setting out for Bruges, he had expressed a fear of being stopped by Dunkirkers on the way back. Some suspicion is aroused that the Cely connexion knew something of capturing ships, and holding the crews to ransom, for there is an undated letter by which Thomas Dalton begs 'Brother Jorge' to pay a bill of 80*l.* for him in London, 'for I loke yevery day for

[a] The Danes had a grievance against England, because English ships visited Iceland. A treaty had been made in 1479 forbidding this intercourse without license (Rymer, xii. 100).

tydynges owt of Holand for my schypp and my prisoners and brother this payment lyeth my pore onestie upon.' It looks very much as if, notwithstanding his 'pore onestie,' he was expecting ransom money with which to discharge his lawful debts.

The shipping by which the Celys' wool was conveyed to Calais was provided exclusively by the ports of east and south-east England and of Calais itself. Sometimes we hear of the fleets of London, Ipswich, and Boston. These, of course, need not have been composed exclusively of ships owned in those ports, but represent the place of sailing of ships combined together for safety, and bringing the result of the great summer clip, or the skins of the autumn killing of sheep. The Cinque Ports had quite dropped out of this trade, only one of their many 'Limbs' is represented, Brightlingsea in Essex, now a mere village. Of the other shipping ports, several now exist no longer, except as villages. Hull, Colchester, and Calais are ports which still flourish more or less. Redriff (Rotherhithe) is merged in the port of London. Walberswick, on the Suffolk coast, might now muster a few fishing boats. Rainham, in Essex, is not much better.[a] Bradwell, in Essex, is scarcely so considerable as these. It had a more renowned past as the Roman station Othona, on the *Litus Saxonicum*. Most noticeable is the flourishing trade of Kent, shown here by the abundance of shipping owned in the Medway. Maidstone we scarcely think of now as a port, but there is a barge trade on the river, and if the lock near Allington on the Medway, called Gibraltar Lock, were removed, the tide would now run up to Maidstone Bridge. The Thomas of Maidstone, however, then appears several times voyaging to Calais. More remarkable still is it to find the Mary of Malling and the Barbara of 'Malwin,' which we can only conjecture to be Malling again. There is a South Malling on the Ouse close to

[a] Rainham in Essex apparently, close to the Celys' country seat, not Rainham in Kent. For the Mary of Rainham took over an Essex cheese to Calais (Letter, October 31, 1481). But Rainham on the Medway was a small port under Elizabeth.

Lewes, but the Mary and the Barbara appear in close connection with Medway shipping. Though the parish of Malling does touch the Medway, Malling is perhaps intended for Halling, a very possible error for one who could write 'Lyll' for 'Hull. The village of Malling was never a port. Other ships belonged to Milton in Kent, and to New Hythe and Milhall, inconsiderable hamlets now, on the Medway. The Grâce à Dieu and the 'Tywe' are the two ships mentioned belonging to Calais. There must have been a wider diffusion of the influences springing from foreign trade when shipping was thus dispersed among many small ports, and not concentrated in large centres. We can readily understand the ease with which, in the next century, foreign religious opinions from the Low Countries penetrated into Kent and Essex, through these many little gates of intercourse.

What manner of ships they were we can partly gather from the accounts of the purchase and fitting out of the Margaret Cely, which the brothers Richard and George bought at Penmarch in Bretagne, and employed on voyages to Zealand, Flanders, and Bordeaux. Her tonnage is not given. She cost 28*l.*, exclusive of rigging and all fittings. She carried a master, boatswain, cook, and sixteen hands on her return voyage from Bordeaux, two of them Bordeaux men. One is described as 'Calker,' but it is not clear whether it is his name or his function. She was, of course, armed with cannon and bows, bills and 'V dossen dartes.' She was, by her complement of men, a decked ship, with two masts, and probably the ships usually employed were decked, at least fore and aft. But one mast only is spoken of in them, cargo being described as lying fore or aft of 'the mast.' As, however, they were probably square-rigged, it is hard to conceive of them as single-masted; in that case they would hardly steer. There was probably a small mizen-mast set far aft, as in what was, and perhaps is, called a Dutch 'Dogger.' The Margaret Cely was victualled with salt beef, salt fish, bread, wheat, and beer. It is impossible to do more than guess at her tonnage, but from her complement it was probably

about 200 tons. The ships from the little Medway ports could scarcely have been of thirty tons to navigate the river safely. The Thomas of Maidstone can have been only a barge, if she had to pass Aylesford Bridge.

The bulk of the wool exported by the Celys was from the Cotswolds. The principal person with whom they had dealings was one Midwinter, of Northleach, in Gloucestershire. Midwinter is still a Gloucestershire name. He was a wool dealer, not merely a farmer. They also bought from John Busshe, of Northleach. Relations with Midwinter were not always smooth. He wrote to Richard Cely on September 20, 1482, that he has sold wool to him cheaper than he can buy it, and is 'barr wytthe howte money,' and wishes to be paid. Again, with no date given, Richard writes to his brother George from London that Midwinter is come to town. 'God ryd we of hym.' As Richard is enumerating some unpaid debts in the same letter, it is possible to read these two together, and to suppose that Midwinter had come for his money.

The Cotswold wool and fells no doubt came on pack-horses (compare Letter of March 12, 1486) by the ancient trackways over the Wiltshire and Hampshire Downs, which had been used before the Roman conquest, and thence through Surrey and Kent to the Medway ports by the Pilgrims' Way. Milhall, New Hythe, Halling, and Maidstone are all within a few miles of where it cuts that river. The Boston and Ipswich fleets would bring the wool of the Lincolnshire Wolds and of the Midland Counties, in which the Celys do not appear to have dealt, as a rule, though we do find them buying from the Midlands. The London and Essex ships would convey that which came through London. How long a time would elapse before the Cotswold clip was safely stored in the Calais warehouses we cannot tell. But the intercourse across the Channel seems to have been fairly rapid and regular for the days of sailing ships. Now and then there were great delays. A letter, for instance, written from Antwerp on October 1 reaches London

on the 17th. But a letter from London of November 9 is answered at Calais on November 12, with no intimation of its arrival that day only. Three or four days seem an ordinary post. On September 2, 1480, Richard Cely wrote from Dover to George at Calais, telling him to be at Boulogne to meet him and Sir John Weston on September 3, and he was there. Richard must, of course, have known of a packet just sailing, with a fair wind, or he would not have ventured on so short an appointment. A journey, even in England, was a serious matter. 'Holy Trinity speed us both,' says Richard when he is departing from London to Gloucestershire, and his brother from Calais to Bruges.

At Calais the merchants and their agents seem to have lived in licensed lodgings, under the regulation of the Mayor and Court of the Staple, as undergraduates of Oxford and Cambridge can only live in lodgings licensed by the University. But they had liberty to change their quarters. On December 5, 1483, William Cely wrote to Richard and George, who presumably paid for his board, that a difference had arisen 'betwyxte owre oste Thomas Graunger and the fellyschypp of owre logyng.'

'Owre oste' had raised his terms from 3*s.* 4*d.* to 4*s.* (Flemish) a week for the high table, and from 2*s.* 8*d.* to 40 pence for the side table. Whereupon all the 'fellyschypp' had gone to other lodgings, except the writer, who was awaiting instructions. This was economical housekeeping. On particular occasions a feast was indulged in at much heavier expense. Ten friends went together to Boulogne. The bill for their entertainment was 5*s.* 3*d.* for 'te denar unto the koke;' 4*s.* 'for the whyne at that dynar;' *item* there as whe lay all nyght for 'whne bedys and horsse 4*s.* 10*d.*; *item* gavyn the mynstrell' 4*d.* *Summa* 15*s.* 8*d.* There was a good deal of sack to the ha'porth of bread, perhaps, and those who lay all night only wanted more 'whne,' but no breakfast. The minstrel was a necessary adjunct to a feast. They came away in a cart which cost 9*s.* There is a commission from Richard Cely to his son George, June 14, 1479, to buy a 'Calais

Carthe,' and he is to take advice, being himself no judge of such ware.

The letters are full of commissions for the purchase of goods abroad, of very various kinds. Goshawks, onion seed, Gascon wine, pickled Maas salmon, fur of 'boge' (lambskin), mink and other furs, 'chambering' (*i.e.* chamber hangings, tapestry), Holland cloth, saddles, stirrups, horse-furniture generally, armour, sugar loaves, salt fish, ginger, saffron, Louvain gloves, Calais packthread. For the purposes of their trade they bought Arras, Bergen (Mons), Elron (in Bretagne), and Normandy canvas for packing wool.

Not only did the Flemish merchants come to Calais, but the Englishmen were constantly at Bruges and Antwerp and at the 'marts,' or fairs, at Barrow, Balling, Cold Mart, 'Synchon' Mart in Antwerp, and Bammys Mart. They did business with people from all parts of the Low Countries. A social distinction may be noticed between the Flemish merchants and those from Holland and Zealand. The former are nearly all 'Van der,' with territorial names: they represent mercantile families of old standing who owned estates in land. The latter are all known merely by patronymics.

History has been miscalled a record of human crimes. But it is unfortunately true that we do not thoroughly know men till we have discovered their weakness and temptations. The English in Calais did not always lead a harmonious life, nor was their commercial integrity always above suspicion. An undated letter, which from internal evidence belongs to January 1482, from Joyce Parmenter, servant to the Celys, to his master George records a mischievous brawl. 'Also I lat you wyt that Bottrell hathe brok up a wyndew of the west syde off your wolhowse & ther he hathe caste in horsse donge upon your sellers I dyd mak a man w^{t} a donge fork in his hande to caste the donge asyde Botrell cam in & tuk the forke fro hym & bete hym well & inthryftyle I seynge her uncurtiss delynge I prayd John Ekynton

Robert Turney John Ellyrbek & Wylliam Hyll w^t^ moe to breke faste in your chamber for this entent to see the hurtes & harms he dyd you uppon your goodes.' John Dalton, writing on January 19, refers to Bottrell as 'uncurtese in her dedis.' However, retribution followed, and it would seem that Bottrell was only one of a gang, uncourteous or worse, for William Cely writes on August 20 that the servants of the porter of Calais are expelled the place, and Bottrell is in prison on the same matter, and is to leave the town, and marches on peril of death. On the 29th we hear that Bottrell is gone and his wife is to follow. There was something here worse than throwing dung in at the warehouse window and an assault with a dung-fork. It was probably some form of illicit trading by collusion of the porter's servants. It was not dealings with the French, or he would not have got off so cheaply as to be only threatened with hanging.

But the Celys themselves were probably not innocent of irregularities in trade. There evidently were attempts made to drive bargains in England for wool; to sell here, contrary to the regulations of the Staple, and even possibly to avoid paying the subsidy. On October 29, 1480, we hear that there is a report that Cotswold wool is being bought in England by Lombards. It is mentioned as a complaint apparently by Richard Cely the elder. But on April 28, 1484, William Cely writes from Calais to Richard the younger and George in London that Wyllykyn, John Delowppys' man, is in England, and that he and Peter Bale are trying to buy in England. He recommends that Peter Bale should be made to pay in Calais according to the Ordinance, for illegal dealing is suspected, and forfeit will be levied in Calais on those guilty of it, 'but as for youre delynges knowyth noon man w^t^ owte they serche Peter Balys bokes as I thyncke grett serche schall be made for the forfett ys lewellyd oon some persones all redy but they be nott yett openly namyd and as for youre wull I trust to Godd hytt schall be sold and have redy mony for hytt w^t^yn thys month.'

It appears from William Cely's letter of February 29, 1484, that he had been dealing with Wyllykyn. This man and Gyesbryght, a frequent customer, had got a promise in London of the wool, so, though William Cely had promised it to 'anoder man,' he took of them 'a Goddes peny' to clinch the bargain.*

But on September 12, 1487, we have a record, which Richard and George ought certainly to have burnt, of a downright piece of swindling. The 'sarpler' taken out by the Lieutenant to test the quality, No. 24, was poor wool; so the faithful William tells his principal that he has cast out No. 8 instead, knowing it to be 'fayre wull,' and changed the labels before inspection. On September 18 he writes with satisfaction: 'Yowre wull ys awarddyd be the sarpler that I cast owte last.' Following immediately on the announcement of the success of the fraud comes the news that George, who profited by it, is elected one of the eighteen to assist the Mayor of the Staple now 'at thys parliament tyme,' to protect, no doubt, the honesty of the trade among other duties—'allmyghty Jhesu preserve you.' This is only the current language of the day, but commercial dishonesty and pious expressions seem ever to go hand in hand.

These are the actions of the upright merchants. George, it is true, does not seem to have been fully trusted by his father as a good business-man, as we may suspect from letters from the latter of August 17, 1478, April 30, 1479, June 14, 1479, and January 2, 1480. George was a sportsman, whose horses were his chief interest, and he also was perhaps not in strong health always, to judge from the letter of November 11, 1479. But Robert was the black sheep of the family. After a letter from London of November 19, 1477, in which he mentions the death of his uncle, the Dean of York, and speaks with evident pride of the references to him in

* A God's penny, money paid to ratify a bargain.

'I draw you to recorde lordes all;
With that he cast him a God's penny.'
—*Ballad of the Heir of Linn.*

a sermon at Paul's Cross, 'and ther sate that tyme V. bochoppys at Pollys Crosse;' and after an ordinary business letter or two we only hear of him as in difficulties. For instance, in 1478 Richard was minded to stop Robert from leaving Calais for England, but forbore at the prayer of Thomas Adam. Robert had borrowed thirty shillings to pay his host, but lost it all at dice. So Thomas has prayed Master Lieutenant to pay Robert's passage money. Such as Robert are better not helped, as Richard points out very sensibly to George on April 9, 1479, for he hears that George has been helping Robert and intends to help him further, but he counsels him to do no such thing, but to leave him alone. 'Ze knowe the onsted fastness of hym.' Robert seems to have been still in Calais; perhaps Master Lieutenant had not paid his passage. He has debts, too, of 15*l.* and 10*l.* Of course he has a wife, or a reputed wife, and she refuses to join him, possibly for good reasons, but alleging the dangers of the sea from so many Frenchmen and Flemings being about. 'Robert's childe' in this letter is his servant, not his son. But Robert's matrimonial relations appear clouded on April 7, 1480. 'Ther is a devysyon fawllyn betwen our brother Robard and sche that schoulde abe hys wyfe and he has gevyn hyr ower.' This probably is the wife of the previous year; they may have been contracted, but not married. On May 3, 1480, his father says that Robert is at Bruges, and will not come to Calais 'for fere of fytyng at Caleys in to Beschepys Cort for the lude mater of Jonne Harthe.' Joan Hart's relatives were trying in vain to get money out of old Richard Cely, and swore that Joan should keep all that Robert had given her, and threatened an action in the Bishop's Court. However, on May 15, it appears that Joan had consented to be quit of a bad bargain, and had returned some of Robert's presents, to wit, a girdle of gold with buckle and pendants silver and gilt, a gold ring with a little diamond in it, and a damask carpet; a fair sample of the presents which we should expect an impecunious scamp to give to his young woman. Richard tells George to

entertain Robert at Calais, to give him five shillings, and send him home. Their father understands of Robert's 'chyldysche' dealing. Finally the prodigal himself writes to George, who clearly was not so hard-hearted as Richard, on September 6, 1480, to say that he has been sick and sore, and still goes with a staff, and will George pay William Barwell, mercer, of London, 14*l.* 15*s.*, which he has lent to Robert to save his plate? Of course Robert will repay the money. It is safe to surmise that he did not, if George was fool enough to lend it.

But it scarcely seems that George's life in Calais was quite regular. His servant writes to him, apparently in January 1482, from Calais, 'Also I lat yow wyt ther ye go & ete puddynges the woman is withe child.' He is also told of it by his friend Dalton. In August he is told that 'Margary' wants raiment against her churching, 'as sche hadd the toder tyme.' He is told on August 29 that Margaret's daughter is dead. He was curiously interested in her. Richard we can follow on a lawful matrimonial quest. After his father's death, at the end of 1481 or beginning of 1482, he immediately set about finding a wife, and offers were made to him from several directions. He was a good match. In 1484, these negotiations having come to nothing seemingly, William Cely writes that a lady has been making inquiry in Calais about the comparative wealth of Richard and George, and of another merchant, and he can assure the brothers that they have sold 2,000*l.* worth in the last year. With a fair mercantile profit of 10 per cent. this would be an income of 200*l.* between them from business. That is a sum equal to the household expenses of a knight, and double those of a squire, according to the reckoning in the 'Black Book of Edward IV.' Richard, too, had an estate in Essex.

The story which he unfolds to brother George, May 13, 1482, is idyllic, in contrast with the dry business details of his ordinary letters. He has been three weeks in the Cotswold country buying wool, and when his business was done Midwinter the dealer began

to move him to go a-courting. He told him of a 'Zeunge genttyll whoman hos father ys name ys Lemryke and her mother ys deyd and sche schaull dispend be her moter XL^{li} a ze [re] as they say in that contre.' Her father 'ys the gretteste rewlar as rycheste mane in that conttre,' and great gentlemen had been to court her. He had spoken to the most influential man about her father, and both father and daughter were well inclined to the proposal. The father sent to say that if he would tarry till Mayday he might have a sight of the young lady. The father prudently kept out of the way. He was to have sat for the King as a Justice of the Peace that day at Northleach, but sent one of his clerks instead, and rode to Winchcombe. The young lady and her mother-in-law, as they call her, that is, her step-mother, came over to Northleach Church. There, in the fine decorated fourteenth-century church, which still stands, Richard and William Bretten were hearing Matins—it was on a Thursday—when the young lady and her step-mother came in. When Matins were done the ladies went to 'a kynnys whoman of the Zeunge gentty woman and I sent to them a pottell of whyte romnay and thay toke hyt thankefully for thay had cwm a myle a fote that monyng.' He and William Bretten stayed for Mass after Matins. When Mass had been said the ladies invited him to dinner. 'I ascwysyd me,' but they made him promise to come and drink with them after dinner. They exchanged good cheer; he sent them a gallon of wine, they sent him a roast heronshaw. Then after dinner—all this was about nine o'clock in the morning, and throws light upon the reasons for Mass being said very early—they met, the three ladies, two of whom had already had the 'pottell of whyte romnay' after their fatiguing walk of a mile, Richard and his friend, and discussed what was left of the gallon of wine, and what more the 'kynnys whoman' might provide. Acquaintance naturally ripened rapidly. The young lady pleased him much. 'Sche ys zewnge lytyll and whery whell favyrd and whytty.' The father was to come up to London to settle the business part of the affair so auspiciously

begun with piety and potation that May morning. But, alas! we hear no more of the 'whell favyrd and whytty' Mistress Lemryke. Ten days after he wrote, before the Justice of Peace had ridden to town, Richard was inquiring about another young woman. It does not appear that he married either.

A characteristic of the whole family, which perhaps they shared with other well-to-do merchants, was their love of sport. The idea that there was anything incongruous between such tastes and the life of a citizen is the growth of a later age. When all travelling was done on horseback, men who were continually going long distances on business were as much at home in the saddle as their descendants are in a train. There was no town in England, London included, which was not as near places where game abounded as a Norfolk country house or a Leicestershire hunting box are now. George was the great sportsman. When he was abroad there is scarcely a letter to him which does not contain news of his great horse, or his young horse, his horse Bayard, or his horse Py, their health, ailments, or bills for their keep, or prospects of their sale. 'The horse ys fayre God save hym God send you a schapeman for hym,' writes his father, after saying that Richard has sold his sorrel for four marks. The tragic news is conveyed to both George and his servant, that his grey bitch has had fourteen fair whelps and died suddenly. When he writes himself he is nearly as much interested in the price of hawks as of wool, and he dabbles in horse dealing with the usual morality. He at last sells 'Py' for five marks, and the buyer thinks himself 'full begyllyd.' Good hawks were sometimes more than half the price of a horse. On September 8, 1482, hawks at Calais were four or five nobles each, but so dear that only my Lord Chamberlain buys them. In some of their correspondents' letters, not their own, it is interesting to see the plurals horsen or horson survive.

Even the grave father and Richard—George being absent in Calais—became involved as sportsmen in a scrape, which may have been merely a misfortune, but which may have been a serious

poaching affair. On November 5, and again on the 26th, 1481, Richard wrote to George that he and his father, and 'Brandon's men' he says on the 5th—'Loutlay' he says on the 26th, perhaps one of Brandon's men—were indicted for the 'scleyng of an hartte,' which was driven over the Thames from Essex, and slain at Dartford, and for the killing of two hind calves. He declares that Brandon informed against them, but that he did it himself, and much more, and is now indicted for killing two harts and certain calves. As to the hart which took to the river, 'the qweche whe nevyr se ner knew of,' the Celys were very anxious not to come into court. Richard had been to Sir Thomas Montgomery, of the King's Privy Council, and Steward of the Forest of Essex, 'to have we howt of the boke hevir hyt be schewyd the kyng.' He had given to Sir Thomas a hundred shillings, 'the whalew of a pype whyn,' and to one of his gentlemen three shillings and fourpence. So Sir Thomas became their 'spessiall good master in thys mater,' and promised to continue his protection, for which George is to wait upon him and thank him, and probably bribe him again, when the great man presently comes to Calais. So the Celys were freed from the charge, and the King's justice was perhaps hoodwinked. It rather suggests a counterpart to 'the knave is mine honest friend, Sir, I pray you let him be countenanced.' Richard Cely's greyhounds were probably accessory to the death of that hart. When George has come to England, and is departing again to Calais, he is to bear off Hector and the others, greyhounds evidently, for himself and the Lieutenant of Gravelines, 'for he [Richard the elder] wyll kepe no mo grewandes a whyll be greabyll to kepe a hawke and spaynellys,' which last could not run a hart.

The interviews with Sir Thomas Montgomery cost Richard something, and he would be glad of remittances from Calais. As a consolation, however, he found that he had bought an *entrée* into good society. 'I am cwm in qwaytans of dyvars whowrschypfull men that wyll myche for ws for hys sake'; and he does not add for the sake of the 'whalew' of a pipe of wine. When the King

pocketed a bribe yearly from Louis XI, what virtue could be expected in his councillors?

Taken for all in all, the life revealed is not worse in point of morality than that of the same class at other times. It is more vigorous and manly than commercial life is now. The modern young business man has his holidays devoted to sport. The Celys, besides occasional relaxations—and Richard rode down to buy in Gloucestershire hawk on fist, ready to let fly at heron or partridge as he journeyed—had a continual experience of roughing it in their working days. In peril of robbers by sea and land, in peril of bogs and stones on the English apologies for roads, among the contending troops in Flanders, tossing in smacks across the Channel, they probably became men, more natural and tougher-fibred than those who have to cultivate their manhood by sport and games in the intervals of business. There is very little sensibility about them, but plenty of sense.

Richard Cely the younger died in 1494,* leaving three co-heiresses—Margaret, Isabella, and Barbara—aged only four and three years, and six months respectively. Margaret married John Kettleby, and died childless. Isabella married Robert Warham and Antony Cook, and left descendants. She inherited Brytys Place at last from her sisters, for Barbara seems to have died unmarried. The property was sold in 1531.

* Inq. P. M. 9 Hen. VII. Sept. 20.

APPENDIX I

Contemporary Coinage

There are many references in these Letters to the various coins current, or we should perhaps say circulating, for they were not all accepted as current coin, in Calais. The rate of exchange was a continual subject of calculation or of dispute among the merchants. The number of potentates of all kinds who claimed the privilege of issuing their own coinage, and the frequently suspicious character of what they uttered as gold or silver, made the matter of adjustment of values difficult for the Celys, who were evidently obliged often to take what they could get. English money was, as a rule, much finer than foreign. The pound was not an English coin, but, as a measure of value, it was reckoned as worth more than the Flemish pound, in varying proportions.

The case was the same with the English and Flemish shilling. The English groat was sometimes worth sixpence Flemish. But rates varied.

For example, Sir John Weston, going abroad on July 31, 1481, desires to have 100*l.* or 200*l.* English changed into Flemish money at seven shillings Flemish for the English noble of six shillings and eightpence. On May 10, 1484, however, one pound English was worth thirty shillings Flemish.

The following is a list of foreign coins, with an English value assigned to them, generally by George Cely. That I have identified most of them, and can make a conjecture about some of the others, is owing to the courtesy of Mr. B. V. Head and of the other officials in the Coin Department of the British Museum, whose kind help I gladly acknowledge.

Andrew, Andre, or Andrew Gylder, a Scots gold coin of James II. and James III.; reckoned as worth five shillings English.

Arnoldes, the Arnoldus Gulden of Arnold Duke of Gueldres, 1423–1473, made of debased gold; reckoned as worth two shillings and fourpence English.

Carolus Groat, the groat of Charles of Burgundy.

Crowns, or New Crowns, probably the French Ecu ; reckoned as worth five shillings and eightpence English. The English Crown was not coined till later than this.

Crowns, Old, perhaps the Ecu coined by Henry V. or Henry VI. in France ; reckoned as worth five shillings and sixpence English.

Davyd, or Dawethe, a gold coin of David of Burgundy, Bishop of Utrecht 1456–1498, made of debased gold ; reckoned as worth four shillings English.

Falewe, a gold coin of the bishopric of Utrecht, bearing the mint mark of Veluwe, a district in the Bishopric ; reckoned at six shillings and twopence English.

Hettinus, Hettin or Hekyn Groats, perhaps coins of the county of Marck in Westphalia, the Counts of which had also lordships in the Netherlands, bearing the mint mark Hattin : as being coined at Hattingen. However, only pence, not Groschen, are extant coined at Hattingen. Groschen were largely coined at Oettingen in Bavaria, but the geographical want of connexion with the Netherlands makes a difficulty in supposing these to be meant.

Hettrytus, possibly Gulden of Utrecht marvellously misspelt ; reckoned at four shillings and fourpence English.

Lewe, the French Louis d'Or ; reckoned at seven shillings English.

Lymmyr Groats, Groschen of Limburg ; reckoned at sixpence or sevenpence Flemish.

Milleyn Groats, silver coins of Milan ; reckoned at two shillings Flemish.

Nemyng, Hemyng and Renyng Groats, Groschen of Nimuegen ; worth about fourpence.

Phellypus, the Philippe d'Or of Brabant, struck by Philip the Good of Burgundy ; reckoned as worth three shillings and fourpence English, or the half-noble.

Plalkes or Plakes, perhaps the Plaques of Utrecht. The value is far above that of Scots Placks, billon coins of James III., but perhaps the name Plaque, a thin piece of metal, might be applied to various coins. These are reckoned as worth about eightpence or ninepence English, or three to two shillings and twopence. The 'old sengull plack' was only twopence.

Postlates, coins of debased gold of Rudolf, Bishop of Utrecht, 1423–

1456, but also the name for other episcopal coins ; reckoned as worth two shillings and eightpence English.

Ryall, the English Rial, worth ten shillings. The value given by George Cely, fourteen shillings and sixpence, is probably the value in debased Low Countries money.

Rydar, any coin bearing the figure of a man on horseback might be so named. The Scots Rider of James III., gold, was of eighty grains weight, the same as the English Angel of Edward IV., worth six shillings and eightpence. The gold Rider of Philip of Burgundy was of the weight (sixty grains) of the half Rial of Edward IV., worth five shillings. The value assigned to a Rydar by George Cely, six shillings and fourpence, may express some distrust of the Scots coin, or more likely is the value of the Burgundian Rider in debased Low Countries silver.

Rynyshe, the Florin Rhenau, of the Bishopric of Cologne ; reckoned as worth four shillings and tenpence English.

Setillers, coins of uncertain origin. A coin with a seated figure upon it was sometimes called a *Chaise*, and Setillers suggests *Sedilia*. Setillers appear elsewhere to be mentioned as coins of small value ; in the only place where they are valued in these Letters, October 31, no year, they are reckoned at four shillings and fourpence each Flemish, which would be rather under four shillings English.

In addition to this list, we have in the Letter of August 29, 1482, an official valuation of foreign coins for custom and subsidy, made in Calais. The values are a trifle lower than in the private list. One other coin appears, the Gylhellmus, at four shillings.

There was a coin, gold, called a Willelmus, struck by William Count of Hainault and Holland 1404–1417. This was perhaps meant, though it seems to be worth more than four shillings, if the gold was pure. William Duke of Guildres, 1377–1393, struck gold coins of about the right value, but the name does not appear as applied to them. In the official list the Falewe mentioned above appears as the Salew with nearly the same value, five and sixpence. The official rate of exchange was fixed then at twenty-six and eightpence Flemish for one pound sterling. The other official values are :

The New Croune, five and sixpence ; the Olde Croune, five and fourpence.

The Lewe, six and eightpence; the Andrew Gylden, four and sixpence.

The Ryder, five and eightpence.

The Olde Nobull, eleven shillings.

The Ryall, thirteen and fourpence.

The last two are puzzling, for the Noble (English) had been current for six-and-eightpence, and the Rose Noble, or Rial, of Edward IV., was ten shillings. The latter, indeed, corresponds to the rate of exchange, if the shillings are in Flemish; but the former is far from doing so.

APPENDIX II

Contemporary Wool Marts

The names of places mentioned in the following Letters have been annotated and identified where possible, with certain exceptions. It has not been thought necessary to explain English place names, the spelling of which preserves the sound of the modern pronunciation, even though the form be slightly different; such as Darteford for Dartford, Cottyswold, &c. for Cotswold. Neither have certain places of obvious interpretation, Dover, Calais, Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp, which occur very frequently, been explained. A number of 'marts,' fairs, or markets are named, the annotation of which in every place would have necessitated the repetition of sometimes doubtful explanations. These marts seem to be certainly or possibly allocated as follows:

In London the Mart means Mark Lane, which is a mere corruption of Mart Lane.

In Calais there was also a Mart, where the Staplers lodged and did business.

In Bruges the Mart is represented now by the Rue des Laines. Synchon, Synschon or Synssen Mart was a fair at Antwerp, held on St. John the Baptist's day; as appears in the Letters.

Bammys, Bammes or Bamnys Mart was probably at St. Rémy in the Bishopric of Liège. Bamis is a local Flemish name for St. Rémy. This fair was held on August 8.

Balling or Balyng Mart was perhaps at Baelen in the Duchy of Limburg. M. Warnkoenig, 'L'Histoire de Flandre, Civile et Politique,' vol. ii., Appendices X., XI., XX., gives forms of safe conduct from the Duke of Limburg for Flemish merchants proceeding through Liège and Limburg towards the Rhine. Baelen is on the road towards the frontier of the Duchy of Juliers.

Cold Mart would seem to be Cortemarck, near Thourout, or Torholt, in West Flanders. At Thourout a great fair was established as early as the thirteenth century.

Barrow, or Barow Mart, most frequently mentioned, is the most difficult to identify. It appears from the Letters to be within two days' journey of Calais. Near Hazebrouck, in what was lately French Flanders, M. Warnkoenig marks in a map of Flanders, as it was in A.D. 1300, the village of Borre; near it is Stapele. They are about thirty miles from Calais as the crow flies.

LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

THE CELY PAPERS.

1

Ryght worshipfful Sir I recomawndè me unto you. Forthermore Sir lyke it you to wytt that at my last beyng at Callez John Dalton and I hadd certeyn communicacion for your horse and if I might aspoken w^{t} you I wold aboght hym of you so that ze wold aben resonabyll for he shuld be for a grèt gentylman of whom you might deserve grèt thanke if yt be so that you thynke the horse wolde serve hym prayng you to owe me therein yowr goode wyll and send me worde by the brynger heroff ys disposicion of answeire by wrytyng and you shall have my service at all tymes that knoweth God who ever preserve you wrytton at Langham the xiiij day of May.

yours Wylliam Adam.

Addressed: To the worshipfull George Cely merchaunt of the Stapell at Callez hit. dd.

On the Dorse: to have bought a hors of G. Cely Nichil.

2

The viij day of August Anno lxxv Richard Cely to Petter Vanderathe ande to Gysbryght van Wenysberge of Breggis viij sarplers good Cottes: The poiis and mony after.

N° xxxj . ij sacc lxj cl.
N° xxiij . ij sacc lxiiij cl.
N° xxxvj . ij sacc lx cl.
N° xxij . ij sacc lxx cl.
N° xl . . ij sacc lxv cl.
N° xxv . . ij sacc lvij cl.
N° xxxviij . ij sacc lix cl.
N° xxiiij . ij sacc lxv cl.

Summa: xxj sacc d vj cl.

Summa Argent: cclxxiij^{li} iij^{s} vj^{d} ster.
Summa Argent: cccix^{li} xij^{s} flemysche.

Of the wyche to receyve in honde in thys Bames Marte of every sarpler viij^{li} fl. amounteng . . . lxiiij^{li} fl.

And the overpleues ys lent them to pay at ix monthis and ix monthis and so the haulffe ys payabull the viij day of May next the som of . . . . . cxxij^{li} xvj^{s}.

Item the toder haulffe ys payabull the viij day of Feverell Anno lxxvj the som of . . . . . cxxij^{li} xvj^{s}.

Item the same day Richard Cely to Barbell Berneught and Aleamus Bolonys, iiij sarplers of gode cottes: pris and argent āfter . . . . . .

N° xlj . . ij sacc l cl.
N° vj . . ij sacc lxv cl.

Summa: x sacc xxxvj cl.

N° xxxix . ij sacc xxxix cl.
N° ij . . ij sacc lxij cl.

Summa Argent: cxxxj^{li} xiiij^{s} viiij^{d} ster.
Summa Argent: cxlix^{li} v^{s} xj^{d} flemysche.

Of the wyche to receyve in honde in this Banes Marte of every sarpler viij^{li} flemysche, Amountes . . . . . xxxij^{li}.

And the overplus ys lent them by even porteonys to pay at ix ande ix monthis that ys to pay the viij day of May next the som of . lviij^{li} xij^{s} xj^{d} ob.

Item the toder haulffe ys payabyll the viij day of Feverell Anno lxxvj the som of . . . . lviij^{li} xij^{s} xj^{d} ob.

Item the xvj day of Auguste Richarde Cely to Cornelluz van

Dorne of Breggis vj sarplers of goode cottes: wolle the pois and argent after

N° x . . ij sacc lxv cl N° xlij . . ij sacc lj cl. N° vij . . ij sacc lxx cl.	Summa: xvj sacc xxvij cl.
N° xix . . ij sacc lxxj cl.	Summa Argent: ccvj^{li} ix^{s} iiij^{d} ster.
N° viij . . ij sacc lxxj cl. N° xiij . . ij sacc lix cl.	Summa Argent: ccxxxiij^{li} xix^{s} xj^{d} flemysche.
Of the wyche to be receyvyde now in this Bames Marte next of every sarpler, viij^{li} flemysche	lxviij^{li} fl.
And the owerplus ys lent to the sade merchant by ij paymentes to pay at ix and ix monthis holle this mony the no day receid so he to pay the firste payment the first day of June next	iiij^{xx} xij^{li} xix^{s} xj^{d} fl.
And the toder haulffe ys payabyll the first day of Marche Anno lxxvj, the som of . .	iiij^{xx} xij^{li} xix^{s} xj^{d} fl.

3

(Anno lxxvj)

Welbelovyd Brother I recomaund me herttely to yow ferthermore informynge yow that the xiij day of Aprell the zeere above sayd I Robard Cely have ressayvyd of Wylliam Eston mersar of London xij^{li} ster: to pay at Andewarpe in sencyon martte the xxiiij day of June for every nobyll of vj^{s} viij^{d} ster: vij^{s} x^{d} flemeshe and I pray yow to delyver to the sayd Wylliam Eston xij^{li} starlynge at the same ratte takynge a byll of ys honde to paye at London the sayd xij^{li} at a day as longe hafter the day as I toke the mony wys beffore. In wettnes herof I sette my seelle at London the xiij day of Aprell

per Robard Cely.

Addressed: A George Cely.

4

Jhesu

Ryght reverent Syre and my specyall frende I recomaund me unto you ferder mor and yt plesse yow ye schall understond that y have schypped in the George of London Wylliam Bellson beyng master ix packys d. of felles contaynyng iijm viij cl felles the whych felles leyyt in the for rom of the sayd schyppe v packys iij c d. and the remenant leyng abaft the mast upon John Tamys fellys the whyche felles war Thomas Kestenys and thay war arested be Thomas Hadam for the som of lx^{li}. Syr ye schall understond that Thomas Kesten hat ywreten unto me that y schuld fynd the way and the men to saff the cortte harmeles her and taake the felles for myn own that y schuld be sewyr of that som in dyschargyng of the sewyrteys and allso in party of payment of seche goodys as he ys owyng unto me as ye know well and ther for Syr I pray yow that ye woll ressayve them as myn own proper good and so yt ys and allso I pray you that ye woll pay the freyght and all hoder scostys therof Syr y pray you that ye woll recomaunde me unto my masters youre fader and allso unto youre broder Rechard and ye may say unto hem that Hary Seysell recomaunde hem unto yowre broder Rechard Cely and he prayd hem harteley that he would bey for hem ij vernakelys[a] seche as youre broder Robard hath yyeven unto Sent Tolowys scryssche[b] no mor unto you at thys tym but the Trenytie have you in hys kepyng Wreten at London the xxviij day of September Anno lxxvj

Be youre owne
Wylliam Maryon.

Addressed: Unto George Cely marchant of the stapall
at Calles thys letter be delyverde.

[a] Vernicles, or copies of the Vernicle at Rome, St. Veronica's handkerchief with the portrait of our Lord.

[b] St. Olave's Church, Hart Street, otherwise St. Olave's-next-the-Tower.

5

Rychard Cely the elder

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}lxxvij

I grete the wyll and I understand there com no marchauntys to Caleys for to bye woll nor fellys for the weche ys ryght hevynese for the marchauntys of the stapyll for the weche I fere me every man wyll fende the mene for the sale and delyver ys woll and fellys into sure men ys handys be the mene of sale to marchauntys strangers the weche have repayryd to Caleys afor thys tyme for the weche I wolde ye hadde commyngaschon wyt syche marchauntys as ye have fonde sure men and good men for to aventer som of my woll and fell in there handys be the mene of sale at long dayys for I fele men schall do so at thys seson for the weche I wolde thynke taht John Underhaye were a good man for to tryste and hoder men syche as ye thynke good men spare not for a long day for I fere me yt wyll com thereto for I understand wyll there be dyvers men of the felychepe of the stapyll of Caleys have solde woll for iij zere day the laste payment and the pryse kepyt and the money xxij^{s} viij^{d} for the li. also for money be exchange at London ys vij^{s} x^{d} fl^{s} for vj^{s} viij^{d} ster. and for to resayve at London in hand and for to delyver at Bregys at a monyth day after vij^{s} x^{d} fl. for vj^{s} viij^{d} ster for the weche I can thynke money wyll better thys marte noe for the weche doe as wyll as ye can for I have not schargyd the wyt a peny nor send me no sterlyng money for the lose ys to grete at thys seson I wryt no more at thys tyme but Jhesu kepe. Wryte at London the xxiij day of May in haste.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To Jorge Cely at Caleys be thys lecter delyverd.

6

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}lxxviij

Ryght whorshypffull Fadyr aftyr all dew recomendassyon pretendyng I recomewnd me unto yow in the most lowliest whisse that I con or may Fordyr mor plesyth yt yow to undyrstonde y resseywyd an lettyr from yow wrytt at London the forst day of May the wheche lettyr I hawe rede and do whell undyrstonde I felle be yowre sayd lettyr ytt ys conclewdyd w^{t} the Kyng and hys counsell that whe shall pay the soudyar starlyng mony whe wher at losse ynowe affore thow ytt be no mor mony ys styll at Calles ij^{s} ij^{d} lowar [a] than ytt ys in Flaundyrsse and now starleng mony to that ytt ys to grett an losse whe most soffyr ytt whe may nott chesse me semyth yff ytt coud be browght anbowght that whe myght hawe an quyne [b] at Callez agen and let non hoder mony go in the town of Calles but starlyng mony than showld whe make bettyr shyfft and ytt showld nott torne us to so grett losse for now as the casse stondythe at thys tyme ther ys no merchant that spende an grott in the towne of Calles but they lesse an halpeny and men of the stapell breng the mony to Calles that ys browght ze may se what losse ys in grett somys but yff the mayer and the fellyschyp seke an remedy herfor ytt wyll be for the fellyschyp to grett an losse &c. Plesyth ytt yow to whett y felle by yowr wryttyng the schyp at London and ze wold shyp and ze myght hawe any comefortt in good fayth ytt wher whell done that ze sheppyd also ze shall stonde in as good casse as any hothyr men & whan ytt ys at Calles the venter ys borne I thanke God ze hawe growyn at Calles to answer the costes & chargys of the same and hovyr and above that I trost to God to make yow hovyr at thys marte c^{li} ster: and mor and I may be whell payd as my hoppe ys y shall be in any whysse lett yowr felles

[a] Written over 'hyar in an,' crossed out. [b] *Cunagium*, mint. Our *coinage*.

come thys next sheppyng and yowr xix sarplers and a poke and aftyr yff God send fayr whedyr and good tydynges ze may dayly send mor &c. I woll be the grace of God unto thys syngsyon martte and ther I woll speke w^{t} John Vandyrhay and seche merchantes as I am acostomed to delle w^{t} y moste do as hothyr men dothe ar elles y most kepe stylle y undyrstode by John Daltonys wryttyng at London whan ytt come to me ther that he myght an sowlde all yowr wolle halfe in honde the tothyr halfe at Whyttsontyde ytt whas no mor but all your howlde woll and as for the newe ytt ys the iij^{d} peny vj monthys and vjmon thys and so myght I a done syn I come unto Calles the day ys long y woll knowe hym ryght whell that shall hawe any at that day y shall se at the marte what y may do yff I can do none bettyr I most do as hothyr men dothe &c whe have chossyn Robard Tate to be howyr leffetennawnt and he most be at Calles w^{t} in thys monyth no mor unto you at thys tyme but Jhesu have you and all yowrs in hys blessyd kepyng Amen wrytt at Calles the viijth day of May lxxviij

per yowr son

G. Cely.

Addressed: Unto my ryght whorshypfull Fadyr Rychard Cely merchant of the Stapell off Calles Dewellyng at London yn Martte Lane so it come.

7

Rychard Cely the Elder

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}lxxviij

I grete the wyll and I have resayvyd a lecter from the wrete at Bregys the ix day of Jun the weche lecter I have wyll understand every ponte and I have resayvyd closyd in the sayd lecter iij lecters of payment acordyng to youre wrytyng be Thomas Granger bryngar and I understand well the zeyng of money be exchange at the marte ys not good and also I understand be Thomas Granger

the sodears at Caleys wyll not be plesyd for to take for the payment viij^{s} fls. for the nobyll ster: for the weche it ys to grete a lese for the stapyll to bere aftyr there desyar for the weche I am ry sory that I have chargyd me so sore and so meche but I wyll understand more of that mater or I schepe woll or fell I bogwyt a vm^{l} fell in Cottyswolde and they be good I am avysyd not for to schepe neder woll nor fell tyll I have wrytyng from the of syche maters and resayvyd of mony at Bregys that be the grace of God ye sall and have done full well and Jhesu for ys grete mercy send a good pesse in the Duke of Borgand landys for ellys wyll be no good marchantys warde I wryte no more but Jhesu kepe you wryt at London the xvij of Jun in grete haste.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To George Cely at Caleys be thys delyver.

8

Rychard Cely the Elder

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}lxxviij

I grete [the wyll] and I send the a lecter wryt at London the xiij day of Jule of the answare of your houre lecter but I fele wyll ye have not that lecter as zete I wryte to the that I have schepyt and wyll schepe xl sarplerys of cottyswolde woll and x packys of fell or more for the weche I wyll ye schall make porveons for frayth and hossyng as ye schall onderstande be my fyrste lecter afor wryte and ye shall porvay for hossyng for Rychard Cely and the felle for viij packys of fell were of I have a perte w^{t} you in the same fellys as ye schall understand be thy broder Rychard Cely at ys comyng to Caleys schortely for the schepyng ys ner don and schall be wyt in vj dayys for weche I wryt to the schortely and in

grete haste and also in good faythe for lake of money I forgoe many good barganys of fell for the weche I am ryght sory but I pray the have thys mater yn my[nd] and lete me understande wat redy mony I have at Brygys of myn in hand that I may scharge the and that I may doe hony goo[d] there wyt as I fele wyll I schall I wryt no more Jhesu kepe the. Wryte at London the xx day of Jule in haste.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To Jorge Cely at Caleys be thys lecter delyverd.

9

Rychard Cely the Elder

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}lxxviij

I grete the wyll and I marvele meche wat ys the cause that ye send me no letter from Caleys neder thy broder nor thyselve for the weche I thyng ryght strange in someche as I am so schargyd for thys good late schepyt it were grete comfort for me to here howe ye doe and in wat case my good ys yn at Caleys my fell the bacons for to be deperde and make all sengyll fell and serte cottyswolde on them selve and London somor fell of themselve wynter in lyke wyse there ys non askwse but ye may wryt at all tymys as hoder men doe to there maysters and frendys I wryt no more but Jhesu kepe yow. Wryt at London the xvij day of Auguste in haste.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To Jorge Cely at Caleys thys lecter delyverd.

10

Rychard Cely the Elder

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}lxxviij

I grete the wyll and I have resayvyd from the a lecter wryte at Caleys the xiij day of Auguste the weche lecter I have wyll understande and ye have solde vj sarplerys of my good cottyswolde woll pryse the sacke xix marke to Peter van de Rade and Danyell van de Rade marchantys of Bregys the poyse the argent and the dayys I clerely understande and also I understand ye have solde to John Delopys and Cornelys van Dorne and Gysheryhrt van Dehnysbarge marchauntys of Bregys vj sarplerys of my good woll cottyswolde pryse the sacke xix marke the poyse argent & dayys I understande wyll for the weche I am wyll plesyd I understand ye have resayvyd my woll late schepyt xlvij sarplerys and a poke all Cottyswolde and my fell in savete I thanke God and the frayght payd for the weche I pray yow send me a cope of the payyng of the frayfte that I may wryt in my bogke the passelys and for the costom and subsete pay yt as hoder men doe there ys l payd before and my pertyschon hellpyt to and as for the reste I wyll ye paye yt for I understand wyll we schall paye the costom and subsete sterlyng money doe as hoder men doe schortely I have not schargyd the wyt a peny to pay for me neder at Caleys nor Bregys nor at the marte for the weche I pray the doe in thys pertys as wyll as ye can as my very stryte ys in the and take the warled as yt ys in sale and exschange a payyng of custom and subsete take you no thowe therefore I understonde that mater before youre wrytyng for the weche I have bogwyt not j sacke woll thys seson but I have payd my woll marchauntys in cottyswolde for the woll I have in Caleys & fell John Cely & all and they schall doe there beste for me for a tyme were for I pray the make salle to sure men and ye can

for the warled ys not good were for it ys as good for to lese in the begeyng as in the ende save as meche as ye may for the exschange be syche it wyll be hevy to bare the weche I pray God ament hyt I wryt no more to you at thys tyme but Jhesu kepe you. Wryt at London the xxv day of Auguste in grete haste. Also I wyll ye dell wyt Borganys man at the marte for ys payment ys good to me at all tymys befor the day as Rychard Cely can enforme you the man of Lyne ys dood [*sic*] payment and that ys mery for to dele wyt syche men take good men and doe the better to them rader.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To Jorge Cely at Caleys be thys lecter delyverd.

11

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}lxxviij

Item the xxiiij day of November I have bogwyt of Wyllyam Medewynter of Norlache[a] xl sacke of good cottyswolde woll good woll and medell woll of the same xl sacke pryse the sacke of bothe good woll and medell woll xij marke the refus woll for to be caste to Wyllyam Medewynter be the woll packer at the packyng of the forsayd woll at Norlache and the forsayd woll for to be waye at the Lede hall at the Kyng beme and the rekyng made & the iij^{de} peny payd in hand & the toder iij^{de} peny the second payment the laste day of May neste comyng & the reste the laste payment the laste day of Septembyr neste comyng thys byll enden betwne bothe pertys I Rychard Cely marchaunt of the staple of Caleys wrete wyt my hand

Item the xxiiij day of Jenever I have delyverd to Wyllyam Medwynter in party of payment . . . . . xx^{li}

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}lxxix

Item the ij day of Apperell I have delyverd to Wyllyam Medwynter in party of payment . . . . . xx^{li} ster:

[a] Northleach, in Gloucestershire.

12

Rychard Cely the Younger

Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]lxxviij

Right whelbelovyd brother George I recomende me to you informyng you that I have beyn to seke your blacke goune at Redhodes and hyt wos at Bondmans and I have ressavyd hyt and zent hyt yn your schest and as for your barell v[c] pound garnettes ar not zeyt cum to Callez syr I have spokyn w[t] Tomas Adam and I towl[d] hym that I porposyd to stope Robard from hys passayge and he has desyryd me to spar Robat for and I reyst hym the ys no mane that wyll helpe hym owt of preson and so he Tomas has promysyd me in hys brothers name that hys brother schaull agre w[t] me at Lon[don] Hary Whayt delywyd to the sayd Robard a xxxs. to pay hys ostes and he has playd hyt at dys every q[e] and so Tamas ys fayn to go to master lefe tenant to pray hym to pay Robardes costes to London sy in thys mater I wyll do my beste for you Syr the mercha[nds] ys cum owt of Frauns and whe say the pays ys not lyke to lat longe betwen Frauns and ws no mor to you wryt at Callez the Thursda after youer departyng

I pray ze recomende me to aull good frndes

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: A George Cely at Bregys be thys dd.

13

Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]lxxviij

Item the iiij[th] day of Fewerell sowlld be me in the name of my fadyr Rychard Cely unto Peter Johnson, Nycolas Andreson, Arnowld Derycson, Albryght Allbryghtson, John Henrycson and Nycolas Claysson merchantes of Dellfe and Holland iij M[l]ixclxxj

coltes felles pris lxcxiiij nobulis di. argentt—ciiij^{xx} xj^{li} xviij^{s} viij^{d} ster:

Item I resseywyd oppon hevery c xxv^{s} iiij^{d} fl. for an li ster: summa xxxix^{li} x^{s} ster: ytt ys l^{li} viij^{d} fl.

the rest ys—clij^{li} viij^{s} viij^{d} ster: It most be reconyd at xxiiij^{s} the li. summa—ciiij^{xx} ij^{li} xviij^{s} v^{d} fl.

Summa total fl.—ccxxxij^{li} xix^{s} j^{d} fl.

Wherof ys resseyvyd in redy mony . . . lxxvij^{li} xij^{s} v^{d} fl.

Item lent the man to pay at bamys next . cxxv^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} fl.

Lent the man to pay at Calles mart next . xxx^{li} fl.

14

Item the xiiijth day of Marche sowld per me George Cely in the name of my fadyr Rychard Cely unto Danyell van de Rade merchant of Breges j sarpler good Cottes pryse le sac xix marke number and poysse affter &c.

N° xxxij . . . 1 sac di. xviij cl:

Argent . . . xxj^{li} x^{s} viij^{d} ster:

Item yt amountes affter viij^{s} . . . xxv^{li} xvj^{s} ix^{d} fl.

wheche ys resseyvyd in redey mony per me George Cely

15

Rychard Cely, the younger

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}lxxix

Ryught reverent and welbelovyd brother I recomende me wnto you as harttely as I can dewyse or thyke informyng you that I have ressayoyd a letter from you wryttyn at Callez the xxvij day of Marche be the qweche I do well onderstonde the demenyng of owr brother Robard and of hys neyd and how ze have holpyn hym and how ze be lyke to help hym mor and ze wryte to me for

cownsell Syr me thynkes hyt weldone to leve hym now at hys neyd so that ze may stond sewyr I wndyrstond be your wrytyng that ze be schargyd w^{t} an offe I pray God make yow well qwyte therof and owre father wors sory that he has chargyd hym so sor or begone on hys byldyng byt at he trystes of comforte from you &c whe heyr saye that our brother has wrettyn for hys wyfe and sche has askewyshyd hyr that ther be so many flemynger and fraynchem apon the see that sche dar not com Syr ther was a mane w^{t} my godfadyr and askyd hym for owr brother Robard and sayd he wosse sory of hys losse the caws of hys askyng for hym was for he ys owr brother Robardes sewyrte for xv^{li} that owr brother mwste pay at marte besyd x^{li} that ys to Wylliam Eston qwat ys mor God know whe heyr saye that hys wyfe has sent to hym for mony ze wryt ze wryt [*sic*] to me a clawys in your letter. The mor ys done for hym the mor ys he beholdyng byt me thynky [*sic*] the mor comfort that sche have of hym and the mor helpe he have of you the les wyll sche sette by us be well ware how that ze do hyt ys better to pyttye than be pyttyd I awyse you to leve hym no mony ne do nothyng w^{t} hym byt afor record ze knowe the onstedfastnes of hym well I now I cannote thynke how ze schall stonde sewyr of that ze have lente hym byt zeve ye can geyte parte of hys fellz transporte be the court and zeyt hyt wylbe sayd be hyr frendys that ze have ondone hym whe be informyd that owr brother Robards chyld ys goyn to Callez ageyn whe marwell in so myche as he browyt lettyrs at he desyryd none ageyn Syr I wryt the playnear to yow for owr father sawe your letter er hyt come to my handys and wos resenably welplesyd therwyth so that ze stonde sewyr owr father rydys in to Cotsold[a] w^{t} in viij dayes and I go to my loorde[b] . . . Syr I pray ze remembyr my loordes hosse clothe he . . . Syr I have made Robard Eryke a byll of xvj^{s} fl. payabull at syet the qweche ys my dewte I pray you harttely that hyt may be anssorde Syr your hors ys in good plyte and he hawltyd sor syn ze departyd byt whe have made bathe thys for

[a] Cotswold. [b] Sir John Weston; see page 26.

hym and so he ys hoyll he wyll playe w^t^ a straw now mor to you Godd sende me a goyde market for owr hors and you a good market for owr fellz Jhesu kepe yow Wryt at London on Good Fryday and I go to my lord on Ester ewe Syr I pray ze recomende me to owr ostes and aull good frendes and grete well Bawlser.

per your brother
Rychard Cely.

Addressed: ℋ my welbelovyd brother George Cely merchand of the stapell at Callez at oste w^t^ Bornellz whedow

16

Rychard Cely the elder

Jhesu M^l^iiij^c^lxxxix

I grete you wyll and I have resayvyd a lecter from you wryt at Caleys the xix day of Apperell the weche lecter I have wyll understande and ye have hadde comyng wyt Gylbar Pamar Borganys man and lese nor ix^s^ vj^d^ and iiij monthys or v monthys he wyll no lese were fore ye have made non wyt hym for sothe I can have of Rychard Tywe mercer at London ix^s^ viij^d^ to resayve in hand and pay hym in Wysson marte neste l^li^ or more for the weche I am avysyd for take oppe at London as meche as I schall nede there fore thys tyme I have ressayvyd of the bryngar of the lecter xij^li^ sterlyng in carleche grotys xij^d^ lese the weche xij^li^ sterlyng ys vj^li^ warthe di. onse the lose is grete in the myte I schall ressayve but xj^li^ xviij^d^ ob for the same werefore send me no more for I cannot understande that ys not good for me I am in speche wyt Hewe Brone mercer for money to resayve at London l^li^ ster: and I to delyver at Wysson marte ix^s^ viij^d^ fl: for vj^s^ viij^d^ st. the weche ys grete lose to me werefore make me at l^li^ ster: as wyll as ye can and as schorte day as ye can I have packyde my woll in Cottyswollde xxvij sarplerys good packyng the weche com to London

dayly as for all maters longg to me do as wyll as ye can as my tryste in the and doe as moste men doe ye schall understande at the marte weche ys beste to doe at the makyng of thys lecter we were in good helle all my hossolde I thanke God and zete the sekenese ys grete at London [a] God for ys mersy sessyde I wryte no more at thys tyme but Jhesu kepe you. Wrete at London the laste day of Apperell in grete haste.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To Jorge Cely at Caleys be thys delyver.

17

Rychard Cely the elder

Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]lxxix

I grete you wyll and at the makyng of thys lecter we were in good helle at Brytys plase in Eseykys youre moder & I, Wylliam Maryon but Rychard Cely youre broder ys wyt my lorde of Send Johnys at Sotton [b] all mery I thanke God the sekenese ys sore yn London werefor meche pepyll of the sete ys yn to the contre for fere of the sekenese I wrot to you answere of the lecter ye send to me lat John Stokars man & of the xij[li] of Carlyche grodys I schall have but xj[li] & xviij[d] in the torwer for the wache that ys not good also I wrote to you I may have money at London for ix[s] & viij[d] to paye at Synschon marte but tary & have non take tyll I have wrytyng from yow but I can thynke I muste take som for my woll ys com hom from Cottys wollde xxvij sarplerys I loke dayly for the men of Cottyswollde for to wey at Ledehalle & than I muste have money for them I may have of Hewe Brone and Rychard Tewek also Sir Wylliam Stoker [c] mayer of the stapyll send to the marchantes at London for to wyte wat every man wyll

[a] The Pestilence of 1479.

[b] Sutton, a manor of the Hospitallers in Prittlewell, Essex.

[c] Sir William Stocker, Lord Mayor of London, 1484. He died in his year of office.

schepe werefor I can yeve non answere tyll I have wrytyng from you also your broder Rychard hath solde ys sorell horse for iiij marke and lent hym the money tyll Mechelmesse and I have ys hoder horse to carthe and I schall paye for hym as he coste at Yorke and soe the horse ys wyll solde and as for youre horse ys no sale at London the horse ys fayer God save hym and Send Loye werefore God send you a schapeman for hym and redy money in hand I wryte no more to you but Jhesu kepe you wryt at London the xiij day of May in haste.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To Jorge Cely at Caleys be thys delyver.

18

Rychard Cely the elder

Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]lxxix

I grete you wyll and ye schall understand I have resayvyd be excheaunge of John Hosyer mercer of London a c[li] ster: I for to paye to John Hosyer in marte ix[s] vj[d] for every vj[s] viij[d] ster: and I schall delyver to John Hossyer anoder c[li] ster: ix[s] vj[d] for every vj[s] viij[d] ster: and iiij monthes day after the resayvyng in the marte for the weche c[li] ster: ye schall have a lecter of payment of John Hossyer to be payd to me at London in Octobor next com and soe I have wryt a lecter of payment and derckyt to you some ij c[li] ster: for to paye in thys synschon marte to John Hossyer in thys manar forme befor wryt for the weche I praye you se in my lecter be wyll payd for I have bude me streydly for the payment there of also I schall payd to Rychard Haynys mercer of London for John Perys of Norlache[a] more than lx[li] ster: for the weche Rychard Haynys mercer wyll have money of me in thys synchon marte be exchaunge as the markyt gothe and I have promysyd ye schall delyver hym lyke as ys man and ye can agree in the marte for that schall be good payment for me in October or Novembor and

[a] Northleach.

it be lxxx^{li} or c^{li} ster: Thomas Cryspe hathe spoke to me for have xl^{li} or l for the weche I wyll ye delyver to Rychard Cryspe ys son as ye can agree in the marte I wyll be glade and ye can resayve my money and delyver yt be excheunge to sure men for I wyll nat schepe tyll I have my money hom in lecters of payment be the dayys ner so long by for me v c or vj c baras [a] canvase for to packe woll wyt Robard Bereke wyll helpe yow to bye hyt. I wyll no more but Jhesu kepe you. Wryt at London the xxj day of May at wrytyng of thys be in goode elle at Brytys [b] Plase in Eseykys.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To George Cely at Caleys thys lecter delyver.

19

Rychard Cely the elder

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}lxxix

I grete yow wyll and I have resayvyd a lecter from you wryt at Caleys the xxxj [day] of May the weche lecter I have wyll understande and also the same day I have resayvyd a boykys therin v lecters of payment acordyng to youre wrytyng and I have schewyde the lecters [unto] John Domynyco Bartholomeo Lombarde to ys clarke and he saythe the lecter schall be payd at the day and I have schewyd to John Spynyell Lombard ys lecter and hathe promysyd payment at the day but as for Phyllypys Sellar of Dorney [c] ye meste wryte to me were I schall speke wyt hym at ys comyng to London the xiiij day of Jun I schewyd the Lombardys lecters

[a] Arras.

[b] Brytys, Byrttes, or Bryttys Place, *hodie* Bretts is in the County of Essex, Hundred of Chafford, Parish of Alveley. The house is about a mile north-west of Alveley Church, within sight of the road from Alveley to Romford. W. Sautre possessed Le Bryttes Place in 1404. John Sautre sold it in 1446 to Richard Andrews, King's Secretary and Dean of York, brother-in-law to old Richard Cely, who sold it to Richard. Richard *Junior* died seised of it in 1494 (*Inq. P.M.*, 9 H. VII., Sept. 20th).

[c] Doornik, commonly Tournai.

at London I wrote to you a lecter I send to yow be John Rose and ij salt salers of sylver of the weythe of x unse or xj or there abods bothe wyt a jw ryng and I spake to John Rose for to speke to you for to bye for me a carthe at Caleys for j horse a schorte carthe bare unschude the wyllys for I have hyar of my wolde Caleys carthe se the carthe body be good hassche and hexsyd rydy for goe to warke for I have gret nede ther to I sopose it wyll coste a vj^{s} or vij^{s} clotys lynys pynys and all praye John Parcar for helpe you or Thomas Granger for I traywe ye can but lytyl skyll of syche ware I wrote to you in the lecter send be John Rose as for all syche money as ye have resayvyd for me and schall resayve in this marte I wyll ye make home to me as meche as ye can for I here saye ther schall goe schepys of war to the see were for God send wsse pese ye schall here myche more in thys pertys nor I can at Brytys I wyll ye bye for me v or vj c of good baras[a] canvase at the marte for I am avysyde for to by more woll I have marvele that ye send me no wrytyng be Randofe of syche maters as he com to London for I fere me ys comyng ys for grete maters for the plase and here ys but strange warlede for to sue non the sekenese raynyd sore at London God send wan ys wyll ys at the the [*sic*] wrytyng of thys lecter we were all in good helle I thanke God. Wryte at London the xiiij day of Jun in grete haste.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To George Cely at Caleys be thys lecter delyverd.

On the Dorse: John Smethe.

Jacob de Bloke	ix^{li} xix^{d} fls.
xxix Andrews iiij^{s} vj^{d} sum . .	vj^{li} xv^{s} vj^{d} fls.
xxx Rynysche iiij^{s} iiij^{d} sum . .	vj^{li} xv^{s} fls.
xij hutrysche iiij^{s} sum . . .	xlviij^{s}
An lewe	vj^{s} viij^{d}
v postlatys ij^{s} vj^{d} sum . . .	xij^{s} vj^{d}

[a] Arras.

iiij crounys at v^{s} iiij^{d} sum	. .	xxj^{s} iiij^{d}
iij Arnouldes ij^{s} ij^{d} sum	. . .	vj^{s} vj^{d}
An gylden rydar	. . . .	iij^{s} vj^{d}
Item ij docates	. . . .	xxxiij^{s}
Item in plakes v^{li}	. . . .	v^{li} fls.
Summa pagine	. . .	xxxiij^{li} xiij^{s} vij^{d} fls.
Item Rychard Crisp	. . .	xlvij^{li} xij^{s} } a
Item receyved per John Mell	. .	xxiiij^{li} fls. xij^{s} } sum
Summa	. . . .	lxxj^{li} fls.
G. Palmer in redy mony	. . .	c^{li} fls.
Upon wyche mor li [a]	. . .	l^{li} fls.

20

Jhesu M

Master Cely I pray you let your man do so myche for me as to go the syne of the Ster next on to Flemmynges dame wher aur daggers be mayd & I pray yow let hym receive a dagger off hym & pay therfowr ij^{crs} vj g^{rs} by the same tokyn that I payd hym vj g^{rs} in Ajust Alsso I pray yow that he may go to the capmakers next to beyond Wylliam Konettes on the same synd to Flemynges dame warde & let hym receive off hym vj sengell bonotes of dyvers colors as I bespake for & I pray yow let hym be paid for them & at your comyng to Cales ye schall be content w^{t} Goddes grace Syr ye may say ye have a howmly felow off me for ye have don so myche for me that hit lyse not in me to deserve hit but ye schall have my serves and that God knows how preserve yow at Cales the xixth day of Juylly.

By yowr owne to my power
H. Stawntoun.

Addressed: To the right worshipffull Jorge Cely
merchant of the stapall so itt dd.

[a] 'li' crossed out.

21

Rychard Cely the elder

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}lxxix

I grete you wyll desyryng for to here of youre recureng for I understande be John Rose ze were sore seke at Bregys were for your moder and bothe your breon and Wyll Maryon and I were sory & hevy for you the laste day of October I have resayvyd a lecter from you wrete at Bregys the xxiij day of Octobor the weche lecter I have wyll understande and I tryste to God ze be recurede and wyll amendyd youre lecter cam to me the sonday befor Alhalou day at dynar tyme at London and Wyll Eston mercer and Wyll Medewynter of Norlache [a] dyned w^{t} me at tyme and the comford of youre lecter causyd me for to bye of the forsayd Wyll Mydewynter lx sacke of Cottys woll the weche ys in pyle at Norlache and John Caly hath gadered and bogwyt for me in Cottyswolde xxxvij sacke be the toode and sacke and halfe sacke for the weche I schall hoape meche canvase for the weche and ye can bye for me iiij or v c of Borgan [b] canvase or Barase [c] canvase of good brede as brode as Normandy canvase and iij dosen packe trede of Caleys trede it were good for me and ze cannot I meste purvae at London for the same but I am avysyd for to packe the forsayd woll after Crystemese towarde Candelmese I tryste in God ye schall be at the packyng of the sayd woll in Cottyswolde I wyll not seppe no woll afor Marche as I am avysyd at thys tyme I wryt no more at thys tyme but Jhesu kepe you. Wrytt at London the vj day of November in haste.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To Jorge Cely at Caleys or Bregys
thys lecter delyverd.

[a] Northleach. [b] Bergen, commonly Mons. [c] Arras.

22

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}lxxix

Whelbelouyd brother I recomend me harttely un to yow Desyryng to heyr of your whelfar and good heyll & informyng you at the makyng of thys our father and mother wher and whe aull wher in good heyll thankyd be God Syr owre father commaunddyd me to wryte and in forme yow that Pelyp Sellar ys dyssessyd and has not payd owr father no peny of hys Dwete qwer for owre father wyll that ze kepe the pawyn in yowr handys tyll tyme that ze have wryttyng from owr father whe onder stond that hys wyffe ys sente for hyddyr hyt wher whelldoyn to enqwer and ondyrstond of hys frendys ther how he mythet be payd Syr ower mother desyer you to by for hyr a lofe of iij or iiij li sewgyr and bryng hyt w^{t} yow at thys Kyrstemes owr father sayes he cando no thyng in Phelype Sellars matter tyll tyme he ha wrytyng frome yow I longe sor for William Fawkene for Meyqe ys sor syke of the cray and the crampe I pray yow remembyr my rynge no moyr to yow at thys time byt I pray Jesu send you heyll and bryng yow wheyll to Lond. . and in savete Wryttyn at London the viij day of Nowembyr.

Syr heyr ys game of leters I now byt mege ys syke whe lette hyr fly to erly and that ys seyn by hyr now.

per yowr brother
Richard Cely.

Addressed: A my welbelouyd brother George Cely merchant of the estapell of Callz beyng at Bregye.

23

Rychard Cely the elder

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}lxxix

I grete you wyll and your moder and I desyer for to here of youre reperyng and amenyng as I tryste in God ye schall ryght wyll be as mery as ye can and spare for no coste of syche tyngke as may be good for you in good mete dryke and your fessychens doe be there consell and plese them at my coste and take no gret labor in rydyng tyll ye be stroke and for that cause I send Wylliam Cely to you for to do for you wyt the haver syth of some good man for I wyll not that ye labor to the marte kepe yourselve wyll yn onnywyse I have lever my money be note resayvyd tyll anoder tyme radar nor ye schall labor yourselve and not holle werefor the brenar of thys lecter schall enforme you of hoder maters of Phelep Selar and hoder maters syche as ye wyll desyer for to here of Wylliam Cely schall wate on you and tend to as long as schall plese you and I tryste to God ye schall come home to London or Crystemese I wryt no more to you but Jhesu kepe you Wryt at London the xj day of November in grete haste.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To Jorge Cely at Bregys be thys lecter delyverd.

24

Richard Cely the younger

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}lxxix

Ryught interly whelbelovyd brother I recomend me unto yow w^{t} aull my harte desyryng grehytly to heyr of your amendment and good heyll informyng you at the makyng of thys owr father and mother brother godfather and all owr howssowld wher in good heyll thankyd be God and desywr grehytly to her of yours Syr whe marwell grehytly that whe have no wrytyng frome yow syn

Wylliam Cely departyd whe had no letter from hym byt whone and that whos wryttyn at Callez hever a cam at yow Syr heyr ys Phelype Sellar ys factors come the ton has weddyd Phelypys dowter hys name ys John Forner and the tother ys name ys Herry Deinorres be the meyn of a brocur hos name ys John Jacope a lombar whe bar them on hand at the byll wos prodeste and owr father pwt the matter in John Jacopys hand and he has labord for payment and the viij day of thys present monythe of Desembyr I ressayvyd iij^{c} crownys the qweych ar chosyn be the brocar howt of j iiij^{c} every crown iiij^{s} the kynge payd them every crown at iiij^{s} vj^{d} the brocar has awardyt that I schaull ryd to owr father into Essex and bryng a letter of hys hand to them derectyd to you that ze may delyver them the fardell w^{t} arras that Pelype Sellar leffyt w^{t} . . and I schawll have v^{li} for the prodest and aull hother costes byt the broca[rs] parte wylbe myche. I pray yow say to them at fette the arras from you [that] byll wos prodest Syr whe loke for yow dayly I pray God send yow a fayre passage Syr my lord [a] has wryttyn to me to cum se hym thys Crystemas I pwrpos to go to him iij days afor Crysteme and be ther iiij dayes and cum agen and ze cum not to London iiij dayes a fo Crystemes I pray you send me my ryng be sum trwsty man owr mother lokys for the cas for the peny that ze toke mesur of I pray Jhesu send you hydyr in sawete ever I go to Bawlsall [b] for than I schawlbe better be sene than I am lyke. No more Wrettyn at London the ix day of Desembyr.

per yowr brother
Rychard Cely.

Syr I spake to you for hawlve a dosyn payr of Frenche glovys iij for men and iij for whomen.

Addressed: Unto my ryught whelbelovyd brother
George Cely merchantt of the
estaple of Callez be thys dd.

[a] Sir John Weston, Prior of St. John's; see p. 26.

[b] Balsall, in Warwickshire, a manor of the Templars granted to the Hospitallers on the dissolution of the former.

25

Rychard Cely the elder

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}lxxix

I grete you wyll and I desyar for to here of youre recuryng and of youre good hele as I tryste in God ze be I have resayvyd a lecter from you wryt at Bregys the xxj day of November the weche lecter I have wyll understande the weche was to youre moder and me and bothe youre brethon and Wyll Maryon a gret comford and fele be youre wrytyng that Wyll Cely was com to you at that day for the weche I was wyll plesyd that he was wyt you and he can doe anny thyng for youre hesse in thys marte tyme as I tryste he wyll also the vj day of Dessember I was payd of Phelepe Seller lecter of payment all in cronys at iiij^{s} ster. a crone for the weche I wyll ye delyver the plegys to ys faturs for the weche I have delyver to them a byll wryt wyt my hand for to delyver to you for the sayd plegys but I understand ye delyverd a byll of youre hande wrytyng to Phelepe Seller at the resayvyng of the plegys the weche bylle ys loste as thay saye werefor ys faturs hath promysyd for to make you a quytons nottarys syne see wyll to that mater for youre dysecharge of the forsayd plegys for John Forner and Hary Demerys payd me at London for sayd lecter of payment. I wryt no more at thys tyme but Jhesu kepe you. Wryt at London the xj day of Dessember in hast.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To Jorge Cely at Caleys or Bregys
be thys lecter delyverd.

26

Rychard Cely the younger

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

Ryught enterly whelbelovyd brother I recomend me harttely on to you and I thanke yow for aulle kyndnes schewyd be yow to me at yowr laste beynge heyr Syr whe undyrstond be a letter frome my godfathyr of your comyng to Callz and the woll flece thankyd be God whe have sente yow be a mane of master the whaytys the whete of the wolle and schpys namys acordyng to your desyr whe ar aull mery my loord [a] has cepeyd hys estyrn at Sente Johnys [b] in London and I had bene w^{t} hym ther aull the tyme he and hys howssowlde recomendes them harttely on to yow the morne after the wrytyng of thys howre father departes to Awelay [c] and into Cottyssowolde Syr ther is a devysyon fawllyn be twen owr brother Robard and sche that schowlde abe hys wyfe and he has gevyn hyr ower and he pwrposes to absente hym sellfe and com to Callz schorttly and as for John Rawns matter I have spokyn w^{t} the kynges howzer and a sayes he has sent the syngnete to Callz and heyr has bene Lenarde Boys and thay has fonde the menye at the mony schawll be payd at Callz Bawll ys in gcod plyte he mornyd tyll he had setteschype and the smythe has gevyn hym a Drynke for the kow and I have sente hym to Awelay be-

[a] Sir John Weston, Prior of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem in England, 1477–1489. He is continually referred to in these letters. The Priors of St. John held a reputed manor in Alveley parish, called More Hall, later part of Kelliton or Kennington. The Order of St. John held land in the neighbourhood at Rainham and Southall, and the Church of Thurrock Grays. Sir John Weston must have resided often on his Essex manor, and as a near neighbour of the Celys was a great man in their eyes. He was of the same family as Richard Weston, of Henry the Eighth's reign; but the Sutton referred to in these letters is not the later family place of Sutton, in Surrey, but is Sutton Temple, in Essex, a possession of the Hospitallers.

[b] Clerkenwell.

[c] Alveley, in Essex.

lowtelay till I cwm agen no mor to you at thys tym Jesu kepe yow wryttyn at London the vij day of Apryll.

per your brother

Rychard Cely.

Addressed: Unto my ryughte whellbelouyd brother George [Ce]ly merchant of the estapell beynge at Callez.

27

Rychard Cely the younger

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

Ryught interly welbelovyd brother I recomende me wnto yow as tendyrly as harte can thynke informyng yow at the makyng of thys howre father and mother wher in good hell and whe aull thankyd be God Syr I hawe bene in Cottyssowlde and packyd xxix sarpelles woll for howr father and in the mene sesun howre father ressavyd a letter from yow to me derectyd and of Lokyngton a carte and a cower qwher in I have lokyd and fwnde aulthyngs acordyng to yowr wrytyng howr father has payd for the kustum v s. and Lokyngton haskys for frayte vj s. viij d a ye not zeyt payd Syr I have bowte no fellz zeyt I departe to Addyrbery[a] te fyrste day of May and qwen I cwme agene I wyll wryte to yow mor playnely I pray yow se my godfathers letter and lete hyme se yowrs howr father marwwellys that he have no wrytyng frome you I pray yow wryt byt for hoype in ws to a whor dyscwmfortes for hever aut ther for lete ws indewer ws to plese as Jhesu geve ws grase to do ho have ws and howre good frendes kepynge.

Wryttyn at London the xxx day of Aprell.

per yowr brother Rych: Cely.

On the Dorse: Syr my lord of Sente Jonys[b] commende hym to

[a] Adderbury, in Oxfordshire.

[b] Sir John Weston.

yow and thankys yow for yowr tydy[ngs] and prays yow of contynewans he ys ryght glad of them and he prays yow to remembyr hys saddyllys styropys and spowrs and clothe for hosyn aull tys at thys Whytsuntyd he pray yow that hyt may be had.

Addressed: Wnto my ryught whelbelovyd bether
George Cely merchande of the
estapell beynge at Callez so dd.

28

Rychard Cely the elder

Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]iiij[xx]

I grete you wyll and I have resayvyd of Lokynton schepe a pype and the stofe there in and a carthe and ix dosen packe threde and I payd v[s] for the fraythe and v[s] for the custom for Rychard Cely was at Norlayge [a] at that tyme and hathe packyd my woll wyt Wylliam Medewynter xxvj sarplerys and iij sarplerys at Westewell [b] and ys com hom in savete I understand ye be at Bregys I pray God be your spede in the maters that ye goe for I fele Robard Cely ys at Bregys for fere of fytyng at Caleys in to Beschepys Corte for the lude mater of Jonne Harthe the weche ys meche adoe for at London the frendes of here hath spoke wyt me for that mater but all they wyll not grant a grote for zeve them were for I have sayd to them I wyll not zeve them a peny of my good werefor I understand sche wyll falle of for to have all the zetys that Robard hathe delyverd her and to have all Robard Cely hathe of herys and I understande Sir John the pryste hathe promysyd for to make thys ende but and Robard Cely were wyse and wyll avysyd all thys wyll be layd aperte wyll noe for ys undoe and he wede her but I may not saye werefor I have wryt a lecter of this mater to Wylliam Maryon more clerely

[a] Northleach. [b] Westwell, in Oxfordshire.

for the weche I pray you zeve hym good consell and send me wrytyng for I may do noght but prevely kepe thys mater preve and let me understand ys entent and after that I shall wre more to you. No more at thys tyme. Jhesu kepe you.

Wryt at London iij day of May.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To Jorge Cely at Caleys be thys lecter delyverd.

29

Rychard Cely the younger

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

Ryught interly whellebelovyd and my syngeler good brother I recomend me wnto yow in as lovynge whyse as harte cone thynke enformyng you at the makyng of thys howr father and mother my godfather Maryon and whe awll wher in good heyll thankyd be the good Loord Syr hyt is so be grehyt labor that the woman that howr brother Robard whos caugyllyd w^{t} sche has made hyme a qwyetane and sche has aull her awne good that was browhyt to howr brothers ageyn and aull the good that howr brother levyd w^{t} her save a gyrdyll of goulde w^{t} the bokyll and pendawnte silver and gylte and a lytyll golde ryng w^{t} a lytyll dyamond and a cyrpete of damoske sche has awll thother thynges that he levyd w^{t} hyr and wyll have Syr howr father and mother wolde that ze payd for hys bord at Callez and delyver hym v^{s} or mor in hys porse and ze to take a byll of hys hande of as mwche mony as ze lay houte for hyme and whe wolde that he wolde come to Hawelay [a] and be ther tyll the matter be better hessyd hour father thynkes he neddyes not to be large of spendyng remembyryng aulle thynges Syr I pray you lette hyme not se thys letter ne tell hyme note if

[a] Alveley.

tys zed byt of the qwetane and hy hyme to Hawelay in as gret haste as ye can. No mor to you at tys tyme. Jhesu kepe you. Wryttyn at London the xv day of May.

Syr I pray yow send my doblet by hym or be the nexte good frend that comes.

hyt ys not for hyme to come in London zeyte.

per yowr brother
Rychard Cely.

Addressed: Unto my ryughte whelbelovyd brother George Cely merchand of the estapell at Callys be thys dd.

30

Rychard Cely the elder

The reference to the holidays makes it probable that the true date is 1480, when Whitsunday fell on May 22.

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}xxx [*sic*]

I grete you wyll and I have resayvyd a letter from you wryte at Caleys the xiij day of May the weche letter I have wyll understande of youre beyng at the martys and of the sale of my medell woll desyred be John Destermer & John Underhay were for be the Grace of God I am a bysyd for to schepe thys forsayd xxix sarplerys the weche I bogwyt of Wylliam Medewynter of Norlayche [a] xxvj sarplerys the weche ys fayre woll as the woll packar wyll Breten saythe to me and also the iij sarplerys of the recturs ys fayre woll meche finar woll nor was the zere before the weche I schepede a fore Ester laste paste the schepyng ys begone at London but I have non schepeyd as yete but I wyll after thys holy dayys for the weche I wyll ye orde for the frayth and hoder costys thys same day youre broder Rychard Cely ys rede to Norlay[a] for to se

[a] Northleach.

and caste a sorte of fell for me and a noder sorte of fell for you & Rychard Cely Wylliam Cely ys fore wyt hym God be there spede and as for syche maters that the felyscher cam to London for I can wryt to you no thyng for I was in the contre Thomas Burgan mercer send to me for to a delyverd me money be exschanchege be for hand but I have take non of hym nor of no man but wyll ye dele wyt Borganys man he send a noder man Gilberde Pamar ys from Borgan[a] I pray you doe as wyll as ye can in makyng hover of money for I fere me Rychard Cely wyll scharege me wyt fell in Cottyswolde and he lyke the passell wyll werefor I have send hym for ys bryng also youre hors Bale ys fayre werefor I wolde ye send for hym here ys no sale of horse I wyrt nomore to but Jhesu kepe you Wryt at London the xxij day of May.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To Jorge Cely at Caleys be thys delyverd.

31

Rychard Cely the elder

Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]iiij[xx]

I grete you wyll and I have resayvyd a lecter from you wryt at Caleys the xxix day of May the weche I have wyll understand and that ze have solde vj sarplerys & pok of my medell woll cottyswolde to John de Solermer of Gante pryse the sacke xiij marke for the weche I am wyll plesyd were for I have schepyd at London the laste day of May xvij sarplerys of my cottyswolde woll were of be vj clotys medell woll in grete haste for the cokyys were made the same day and the schepys depertyd ij day of Jun and my lorde levetenant he depertyd the same day and I pray God send my lorde and the woll schepys wyll to Caleys Rychard Cely

[a] Mons or Bergen.

hath be in Cottyswolde and hath bogwyt xv c fellys for you and him seve and xv c for me of Wylliam Medwynter the weche cam to London thys same day I wyll ye bye for me v or vj c of canvase at the marte for to packe wo[ll] wyt of a good brede not elle brode halfe quarter lese and not of the smaleste but pra thy rond canvase for to packyng in woll I pray you send me wrytyng of all sych maters as schall long to me for [I] thynke ye mythe wryt myche more nor ye doe for my lorde of Send Johnys[a] send to me for tyyngs every weke for the weche my lorde takyt a . . . . . plear for to have syche tyyng as ye here in thys partyys for the weche ye may no lese doe but wryt moche the more of tyyngs for my lordys sake for in good faythe he is a curtes lorde to me and to you and Rychard Cely I wryt no more but Jhesu kepe you. Wryt at London the ij day of Jun in gret haste.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To Jorge Cely at Caleys or the mart
thys lecter delyverd.

32

Rychard Cely the younger

Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]iiij[xx]

Ryught interly whelbelovyd and my syngeler good brother I recomende me wnto you in as lovyng whys as hartte con thynke plese hyt yow to wndyrstonde at the maky[ng] of thys howr father and mother my godfather Maryon and whe aull wher at London in good heyll thankyd be the good Loorde Syr I have bene in Cottyssowlde and bohut for hus xxv c pelles pryse le c of xv[c] iiij li and of a m[l] hevery c iij li iij s iiij d and I have payd and a mwster pay w[t] in thys v days in parte of payment of thes felles and for caryayge xl li and above and I mwste pay to

[a] Sir John Weston.

Wylliam Mydwynter at Bartyllmewys tyd xx li. and at Hallowtyd xx li. for the for sayd felles Syr I pray yow have theys dayes in remembrans my powr honeste lyes ther apon and at my comynges hwte of Cottyssowlde apone a schorte pwrpos howr father has schypyd xvij sarpelles of hys wooll that whos packyd at Norlache[a] syn Ester and ther ys vj of theme myddyll and that ys aull the myddyll woll of that soorte I know hyt whell ther come not better myddyll woll of howr fathers thys vij zeyr and at the next schyppyng howr father wyll schype the remenand of good whooll of thys sorte and hawlle hys felles and so w[y]ll I howrys and I have ressavyd ij lettyrs frome you whon of howr brother Robarde and ther in whos of hys own hande contanyng iiij li starlying payabull the iiij day of [*sic*] I pray God send ws good payment and another Edwhard Lenawlles the qweche I do whell wndyrstond I pwrpos be the gras of God to be at Loutelays Whoddyng on Sonday next and my godfather to Syr heyr ys yowr blake hors and yower gray at London thay ar in good plyte ther ys no mane byd no mony for them and thay stond you to grete coste dayly as for horsse and hawkys I pwrpos never to have paste whon at onys Syr I ondyrstond be yowr wryting that ze have levyd Thomas Grayngar to be your atornay at Callez Whyll ze go to the marte I do send hym a letter and ther in the schypys namys and the whette of howr fathers and nwmbyr that he schawlle ressave hyt by be the grasse of Jhesu have you in hys blessyd kepyng wrytyn at London the sekund day of June.

Be your brother
Richard Cely.

Addressed: Wnto my ryught whelbelovyd brother George Cely merchand of the estapell at Calleys or at the marte be thys delywydd.

[a] Northleach.

33

Rychard Cely the younger

Anno Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

Ryught enterly whelbelovyd brother I recomende me wnto yow as lovyngly as harte cane thynke enformyng yow at the makyng of thys hour father mother and whe aull wher in good he[y]ll thankyd be God and the xxvj day of thys monthe I resavyd ij lettyres frome you whon to houre father another to my selve the qweche I do whell undyrstonde and heyr I sende yow closyd in thys a byll of master Richardes hand from the mayar of the estapell for the dyscharge of the xxiij s iiij d. of the sarpler for xvij sarpelles xix li. xvj s. viij d and I feyll be your letter at the woll schpyd at your departying frome hens whos not so good as I wholde hyt had bene howr father whos at the packyng ther of hyme selfe I trwste to God thys wholl schaull plese you better and as for myddyll wooll ze have aull that belonges to that sorte syr I have resavyd not zeyt byt xv of howr felles byt thay be good I wndyrstonde be your wrytyng that ze wyll come in to Ingland schortely I pray you kepe your porpos and whe schaull be myrry be Godes grase my loorde comendes hym to you and lokys dayly for the geyr that ze promysyd to pwrway hym and Gladman prayse yow to purway a saddyll for hyme sumwhat lesse then my loordes schall be a lyes styll at Berwyke[a] and I thynke wyldo aull thys somer syr I h[a]ve ressavyd at the day whell and trewly the iiij li sterling of hour brother Robarde and now the schpe heyr byt houre father powrpos not to schype tyll hyt be ny myhellmas and ther for whe wylloke for yow dayly and syr I pray yow brynge w^{t} yow the rekenyng that I am in dettyd to you and whe schaull se a way therin be the grase of Jhesu kepe you and bryng you to

[a] Berwick in Essex, in the parish of Rainham, belonging to the Hospitallers.

Yngelond soyn and in safete Wryttyn at London the last day of Juyn.

Syr howr father has ben dysesyd soe I tryste hyt be byt an axys byt I wolde fayne that ze whor her tyll he be better mendyt.

per your brother
Rychard Cely.

Addressed: Un to my Ryught Whellbelovyd brother George Cely merchand of the estapell at Callyes be thys dd.

34

Rychard Cely the younger

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

Ryught interly whelbelovyd brother I recomende me wnto yow informyng yow at the makyng of thys howr father ys aull hooll and ryught merry thankyd be God as my neymer the bryngar of thys can informe yow Syr howr father wyll that ze be not over haste in comynge in to Ynglonde for thys cauys he wndyrstode whell that the woll that whos schyppyd at your departyng from London ys not lyke of goodnes to that at ys of the laste zeyrs growythe and therfor he whoulde not that ze schulde sell them togeyddyr byt as for the myddyll woll at wos laste schypyd he wyll that John Wandyrhay have hyt acordyng to your wrytyng and hour father whowlde fayne that ze mythet make salle of the good woll of the furste sorte as whell as ze can he dar not sende no moor to Calleys tyll he heyr of the salle of the forsayd Syr hour father wndyrstondes of owr brother Robardes chyldysche dellyng and Wylliam Browell has beyn w^{t} hym and

me and he says that Dowlton or ze have a speceaulte of xiij^{li} fl. payabull at Bammys marte next whenyng to hym that hyt had bene payabull at Senchan marte laste and that made hym so bowlde as he says byt howr father wyll that ze the cler nes [a] [*sic*] and send us whoord how hyt ys no mor to you Wryttyn at Byrttes the v day of Juyll.

tomorrow I go w^{t} my loorde to Gurovys End [b] to brynge in my lady Marget.[c]

per your brother
Rychard Cely.

Addressed: Wnto my ryught whelbelovyd brother
George Cely.

35

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

Be yt knowyn to all men that whe Rychard Cely and George Cely merchantes of the stapull of Callez howthe unto the meyr constapullis and fellischyp of the same stapull for costum and sobsede lxxv^{li} xiij^{s} j^{d} qr^{a} ster: to be p^{d} to the sayd meyr constapulis and fellyschyp or to the brynger herof at ther pleser to the wheche lxxv^{li} xiij^{s} j^{d} qr^{a} ster: whell and trwly to be p^{d} whe bynd us and heydyr of hus for the holle and to make good all the costes and lossys that shall happon or fall for un payment of the sayd som beyt be exchange or reexcheynge or hodyrwhysse in whetnesse herof whe hawe sett unto owr selys the xj day of Jowle Anno ut suppra.

[a] Perhaps a word is omitted, and he meant 'Ye see the clearance.'

[b] Gravesend.

[c] The Dowager Duchess of Burgundy, who was visiting her brother, King Edward, this year. *See Introduction.*

On the Dorse:

Item alowid by a warant from Sir William Stoker knyght & meyer of the stapull at Cales for the xxiij^{s} iiij^{d} ster: [a] p^{d} in lnglond . . . . . .xix^{li} [b] xvj^{s} viij^{d} st:

Rest . . . . lv^{li} xvj^{s} v^{d} qr^{a} st:

Item paide the xjth day of Juyll by the handes of George Cely . . . . . } lv^{li} st:

Rest clere . . . xvj^{s} v^{d} qr^{a} st:

36

Rychard Cely the elder

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

I grete you wyll and I have resayvyd a letter from you wryt at Caleys the xxij day of August the weche I have wyll understand and ze have solde iiij c lbs fell for the weche I am wyll plesyd but I understand and ze can sele no woll as zete I tryste to God ze schall full wyll we schall schepe at London woll & fell nowe dayly for the weche I am abysyd for to schepe my woll & fell were for ze moste se wyll to the resayyng at Caleys for I have no man for to send wyt the schepys for Wylliam Cely ys fore wyt Rychard Cely wyt my lorde of Sent Jonnys [b] into France God be there spede for the weche I tryste to you for the resayyng of my woll & fell and all soe for youre fell & Wylliam Maryons fell I sopose ye have not meche a doe at thys marte for the weche I pray you send me wrytyng of youre goyng to thys marte or not for and ye be at Caleys at the loadyng of my woll & fell I wyll be wyll plesyd and ye may so doe I have resayvyd of Mondedanell iiij sadellys &

[a] 23*s.* 4*d.* per sack had been paid in London, and the sum was reckoned at £19 16*s.* 8*d.* Flemish. Compare Letter of October 29, 1480.

[b] Sir John Weston, on the Embassy of 1480. See also next letter.

a grane & payere of styropys and be the Grace of God Wylliam Maryon & I schall lade your schepe wyt fell the schepyng ys not as zete begon as it gothe fore I schall wryt to you and ye here of Ware send me wrytyng schortely for I wyll not be the fryste that schall schepe I wryt no more to you but Jhesu kepe you Wryt at London the fryst day of September in haste.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To Jorge Cely at Calleys thys letter delyverd.

37

Rychard Cely the younger

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

Ryught whelbelovyd brother I recomend me unto you and I pray you hartely to be at Bolen [a] the iij day of Septembyr for my loord [b] wyll be ther and I pray you to brynge w^{t} you your crosse [c] and v ar vj li. Flemysche for me and at howr metyng I wyll tell yow mor. No mor to you. Wryt at Dowyr the sekunde day of Septembyr.

per youre brother
Rycharde Cely.

Planttan pays [*sic*] you to delyver thys byll to hys brother Nowell zer ze cum to Bolen.

Addressed: A my whelbelovyd brother George Cely at Calles so hit dd.

[a] Boulogne. The shortness of the appointment for the next day is noticeable.

[b] Sir John Weston and Thomas Langton were commissioned to go on an Embassy to France to treat of the long-delayed treaty of marriage between the Dauphin and King Edward's daughter, August 24th, 1480 (Rymer, xii. 185).

[c] Money, contemporary slang.

38

John Cely was apparently a brother to old Richard Cely, and uncle to George, whom he calls cousin.

Right wurshipfull and welbelovyd Cosen I recomaunde me unto you and also my sister youre aunte comaundyth her unto yow as hartyly as she can or may all way thankyng yow off youre grett labur and besinesse that ye had for her now at this tyme for the wiche she hopeth to rewarde you in such wise as ye shalbe plesid wyth the grace of Godd Item sir y have byn wyth mayster Ylam and he hath promisid to pay this lxx^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} yt ys redy for her also sir ye shall understande that my sistur yowre aunte hath made her exchange wyth John Mathew mercer of London for the iiij^{xx} xj^{li} flemyshe the wyche ys yn yowr handes and she shall reseyve here of the sayd John Mathew at suche dais as they be agreyd lxxv^{li} xvj^{s} viij^{d} ster: and heruppon she hath delyverd to the said John Mathew the bylle of yowre hand the wiche mone she prayeth you hartly to paye to the said John or to his atorney & bringer of your said bylle now at this nyste marte as her very truste is yn you that ye wull so do Forther more sir as for the byllis of John Eton that Fedyan axith Ingudd sayth we cannott yett fynde them y trowe nor nevyr shall yf we can he shall have them and so saiete Fydian no mor to yow at this tyme but allmyghty Jhesu have you in keping Wrete at London the vjth day of September anno m^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

Be John Cely.

Addressed: To my Cosen Jorge Cely merchante
off the stapull att Caleis be this
delyverd.

39

This letter contains a notice of the same transaction by the writer's sister which is mentioned in the last letter. John Cely was evidently uncertain whether he should catch George at Calais or at Antwerp, and tried both.

Right wurshipfull Sir and welbelovyd Cosyn I recomaunde me unto you wyth all myne harte plese it you to wete that my sistur youre aunte hath made a bargen wyth John Mathew mercer of London and shall reseyve off hym at such days as she and he be agreyd lxxv^{li} xvj^{s} viij^{d} ster : and she hath delyverd hym youre bylle of youre hand be the wiche he must reseyve of you now att this marte iiij^{xx} xj^{li} flemysshe the wiche she praith you to paie to the said John Mathew or to his atorney or bringer of your bylle acordyng to her covinaunte and promisse &c no more at this tyme but allmyghty Jhesu hawe you in keping Wrete at London the vj day off September anno m^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

Be John Cely.

Addressed: To my Cosen Jorge Cely at Anwarp
marte be this letter delyverd.

40

Anno lxxx

Ryght reverentte and worchopffull broder I harttely recomaunde me to yow Farthermor plese yt yow to wette that at the makyng of thys letter howr father & mother wer mery and in god hell blessyd be God and so we hop that ze be and azfor howr broder Rychard Cely ys departtyd w^{t} my lorde of Sentte Johnys w^{t} the Inbassetorys into Frawnce[a] werof I saposse yow wndorstonde ryght well and I ham att London and have ben grettely desshessyd

[a] See Letter of September 2, 1480.

almosste hever sen yow departtyd fro Allvolay [a] and moste partte have kepte my bedde for 1 hafe ben so seke & sore that I goo w[t] a staffe I thanke God I ham now daylly amendynde Item Brother George the causse of my wryttynge ys thys and I pray yow herttelly of howr good broderhod that ze wyll do so moche for me to see that Wylliam Barwell mercer of London be contentte of ys byll of xiiij li. xv s. and wat mony yow lay howtt for me I wyll conttentte yow here for and I had natte have hade that mony of Wylliam Barwell at that tyme I had loste all my platte worfor good Brother remember me & I shall dessarvytte to you w[t] the grasse of God hoo have yow and all ws in ys blessyd kepynge amen wrette at London the vj day of Septembe w[t] grette payne.

Be your brother

Robard Cely.

In a different handwriting: Do myne hevyn.

Addressed: To my welbelovyd brother George Cely marchand of the staple of Calles.

41

Richard Cely the elder

No year given, but by the reference to 'My Lord of St. John's' being at Boulogne it seems to belong to 1480.

Item be the grace of God I have schepyt woll and fell at porte London in my name.

Item in the Thomas of Raynam,[b] Hemonde Danyall, mayster, vj packys contening xxiiij c ij fell.

Item in the Blethe of London, Laryus Bordon, mayster, vij packys and ij c fell contening xxx fell.

[a] Alveley. [b] Rainham, in Essex.

Item in the Anne of London, Patryke Mechelson, mayster . . . . . ij sarplers.

xxxiij . . . xviij cloves. } Summa iiij sacke d. x cloves rebate . . . ix cloves.
xxxv . . . xviij cloves. } Summa clere iiij sacke d. j clove.

Item in the Thomas of London, Thomas Horne, mayster . . . . . ij sarplers.

xxix . . . xv cloves . } Summa iiij sacke d. viij cloves, rebate . . ix cloves.
xlv . . . . xix cloves . } Summa clere iiij sacke, xxv cloves.

Item in the Mary of Mallyng, John Underwode, mayster . . . . . ij sarplers.

xliiij . . . xvj cloves . } Summa iiij sacke d. ij cloves. Rate . . ix cloves.
xxxiij . . xij cloves . } Summa clere iiij sacke, xix cloves.

Item in the Edward of Mylale,[a] Thomas Arnolde, mayster . . . . . ij sarplers.

xliij . . . xvj cloves . } Summa iiij sacke, d. iiij cloves. Rebate . . ix cloves.
xlix . . . xiiij cloves . } Summa clere iiij sacke xxj cloves.

Item in Ncolas [*sic*] of Colchester, John Smythe, mayste [*sic*] . . . . . ij sarplers.

liiij . . . ix cloves . } Summa iiij seke xvj cloves. Rebate . . viij cloves.
lv . . . . vij cloves . } Summa clere iiij sacke, viij cloves.

[a] Millhall, on the Medway.

Item in the Mary of Brekellyssay,[a] Wylliam Recherdlay, mayster . . . . . j sarpler.
xlvij . . . . xiiij cloves. Rebate iiij cloves.
Summa clere . . . . . sacke x cloves.
Summa totallis . . . . . xj sarplerys.
Summa totallis in sackys . . . . xxiiij sacke vj cloves.

I cannot have my woll packyd the weche lythe in pyle at London in no wyse for the weche it schall abyde tyll the neste schepyng I understande be youre lecter that ze schall packe my woll xx sarplerys the weche was schepyt in Marche I wolde fayne understande the packyng of that sorte I send to you w^t^ schepys Robard Good for to helpe to londe my fell and youre xviij c fell and hode fell and Wyll Maryons fell I wyll ye se scharly to hym and wan the schepys be dyschargyd send hym home be water to London for I have grete myse of Rychard Cely and Wyll Cely at thys tyme in good faythe I may not dele wyt woll and fell and my hosbanry in the contre bothe but I may have helpe I was never soe wery of delyng wyt worde as I am at thys tyme and shyt that my Lorde of Send Jonnys cam to Bollen I hadde no wrytyng from you but j lecter none late for the weche I understod not veryly for ye were in Franse or at the martte I hadde so many sayyn of men that cam from Caleys and no lecters for the weche I was gryly astonyd and grete lectyng in my besynese for the weche I pray the wryt and send be sure men that I may understande my delyng also ye wryt not to me of the reste of my fell weder thay be refuse or nay and wat sum of fell ther be for I wat fell the reste schold be. I wryt no more to you at thys tyme Jhesu kepe you and huse Wryte at London the xxv day of September in haste.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To Jorge Cely at Caleys delyverd.

On the Dorse, in a different handwriting:
Le Costum and sobsede.

[a] Brightlingsea, in Essex.

The Costum and sobsede of my fadyrs	iiij^{xx}xiij^{li} iiij^{s} xj^{d} ster:	cxxx^{li} x^{s} v^{d} ster:
Wylliam Maryons	xxij^{li} ster:	
Rychard Cely Jenyer	xv^{li} v^{s} vj^{li} ster:	

42

Rychard Cely the elder

Jhesu M^{l}iiijciiij^{xx}

I grete you wyll and I lecte you wyt I have payd for xxiij^{s} iiij^{d} of the sarplere for xxij sarplerys woll and fell to Sir Wylliam Stoker mayar of the Stapyll the xiij day of Octobor—Summa xxvj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d} as aperyt be the waront the weche I have in my hand I schall send the waront to you wat tyme I understande ze be at Calleys I send to you wrytyng of my schepyng at London at thys tyme be Robard Good my schylde the weche I myght not wyll a myssyd hym and Wyll Cely bothe for the weche youre moder and I were not soe sarvyd thys xx zere for the weche I purpose me to more esse be the grace of God the weche have you in ys kepyng Wryt at London the xiij day of Octobor in grete haste.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To Jorge Cely at Calys thys lecter delyverd.

43

Rychard Cely the elder

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

I gret you wyll and I have resayvyd a lecter from yow wryt at Caleys the xvj day of October the weche lecter I have understand wyll and that ye have solde a sarplere of my good woll Cottyswolde

pryse the sacke xix marke and vj sarplerys of my medell woll Cottyswolde pryse the sacke xiij marke all solde to John van Underhay of Mekelyn for redy mony in hand as I understand the poyse and summa argent I understand be the byll I understand be Wylliam Cely ys lecter that my woll xj sarplerys and my fell schepyth at London late rysythe ryght full at Caleys for the weche the fellys muste be made were for I wyll that Wylliam Cely be style wyt you at Caleys for to make my fellys wyll and to helpe to packe my xx sarplerys woll the weche was schepyt in Marche laste paste and as Robard Good I wyll he com home as sone as he may have a fare passage I have gret myse of hym also my xxiij^{s} iiij^{d} of the sarplere ys payd at London and the waronte send to Caleys be a marchant of Berelay [a] I understand be youre wrytyng yt ys lyke beware wyt frase for the weche I wyll avyse yow to purchese a savecondyte in anny wyse or that ye pase the se for dyverse causys the weche I wyll wryt to you of or ze com hover the se and yt beware as I fere me yt wyll be for the weche wryt to me as ye can here and understand in syche maters for I have not as zete packyd my woll at London nor I have not bowgyt thys zere a loke of woll for the woll of Cottyswolde is bogwyt be Lombardys werefor I have the lese haste for to packe myn woll at London I have a grete scharge at Caleys of my woll there at thys day God send us good sale. I wryt no more to you at thys tyme. Jhesu have in kepyng. Wryt at Brytys the xxix day of Octobor in haste.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To Jorge Cely at Caleys be thys lecter delyverd.

[a] Perhaps Berlaere in Flanders.

44

Rychard Cely the Younger

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

Ruight interly whelbelovyd brother I recomend me harttely unto you and I thanke you of your grehyte coste and scheyr that ye dyd to me and my fellowys at howr laste beyng w^{t} yow at Calles Syr whe had a fayzeyr passayge and the Satturday aftyr howr departtyng whe ceme to the kyng to Helttame [a] to home my loorde [b] whos ryught whelcwm and ther whe tarryd tyll the kynges dowter whos kyrstynd hos name ys Bregyt [c] and the same nyte ryught late whe come to London and heyr I fownd howr father brother Robar and my goddefather Maryon and thay ar myry howr mother ys yn Essex I se har not zeyt my godfather Maryon tellyd me that he has wryt lettyrs to yow I ondyrstonde apart of them Robyn Good tellyd howr fathe tha ze had v hors and I tellyd hym ze had byt iij and how ze have sowld Py j to Sir Umfry Tawbot and he whos welle content I towllyd howr fathe of the lose of twesyltonys mewyll Syr howr father wyll not schype till Marche and he wolde fayne that the wooll wher packyd I feyll by hym that he wolde not that ze come home at Crystemas for he thynkes ther wyll be salle abohut xij tide ther ys gret dethe of schepe in Engelond Sir I wollde wryte more to you byt I depart into Essex thys same day to see howr mother no mor to you Wryt at London the xv day of Novembyr.

per yowr brother
Rychard Cely.

And the mewyll my be gityn send hym to howr father for he whoulde fayne have hym.

[a] Eltham in Kent. [b] Sir John Weston returning from his French Embassy.
[c] Edward the Fourth's daughter Bridget, born 1480, died a Nun at Dartford, 1517.

Addressed: Unto my ryught whelbelovyd brother George Cely marchant of the estapell beyng at Calles.

On the Dorse: Domine fyat pax cum vyrtute.

45

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

Ryght rewerent and worshypffull Fadyr affter all dewe recomendacyon pretendyng I recomeawnd me unto yow in the moste lowlyest whisse that I con or may Fordyr mor plesyth ytt yow to undyrstond that I hawe resseywyd an letter from yow beryng date at London at London [*sic*] the xiij day of Octobyr in hast wheche y do whell undyrstond and I hawe resseywyd yowr warant and ys anlowyd appon yowr byll ancordyng As towchyng hodyr clausys in yowr sayd letter y undyrstond them ryght whell and as for Robyn ye undyrstond be this how whell he has done nonethyng but put ze to cost &c as towchyng me bothe be yowr sayd letter and be my cossyn Maryons I am sory and y con nott be mery tyll that I hawe ben w^{t} yow and y wholde aben w^{t} yow shorttly savyng my besynesse ys soch that I connott as ze know In dede I hawe bene long away and therfor my besynesse ys the mor y this day I be gon to pak yowr woll I thanke Good ytt rysythe full fayr and som medyll woll ze shall have but and ytt rysyth as ytt do ytt shall nott be moche I have men appon yowr fellis dayly in good faythe y nevyr sawe yowr goods so loud in my dayys and so dyd all men ze shall hawe abowe an M^{l} made fellis and yowr woll ys lyke whysse arayd be the grace of God y shall fenyshe all thynges hevyr that y go unto the marte As towchyng my clawis afore I hawe ben long hens as ze know nevyr the lesse and my debyteyys had done ther deuteys y myght so aben for that resson ryght whell Now y hawe sen that at y dessyryd long to se y toke this seson wheche tyme y wollde that y hade lyne syke in my bede yf ye be

dysplesyd therw[t] y hawe had letterys dyvars to an kept Wylliam Cely styll at Calles in dede he departyd hevyr any wryttyng and allso y shall nott nede hym grettly y hawe helpe y now y am yn good whay of my besynesse now zett whas ther ryght lytyll done therto whan he departyd ytt ys so that her whas grett ado at Calles for that woll that come in the last schyppyng becawis that the dokates bare nott dat of the xiiij day of Septembyr dyvars men wold an hade ytt but newe woll ther ys derectyon takyn that ytt shall nedyr be newe nor howllde but yt shall hawe that lysens that ytt shall passe w[t]howght howlde woll appon ytselffe [a] men hade whent that the fellis showld abene howlde zett whe con nott tell ther ys replyyng ther an zenst y thynke that ze shall sett them in the sam casse as the wholl stondys whe shall do moche therto. Y whas to sweffte in wrythyng to my cossyn Maryon y wrott hym they wher howllde fellis.

It ys so that the xiiij day Novembyr ytt whas concleudyd be Cortt that at from Candyllmesse for ij[s] no man shall sell but for xxvj[s] le li I thynke ytt shall causse an stope ze most now wrytt me yowr hadvysse how y shall be demenyd wher y shall howld hand tyll than or sell affore and y con Ther ys but lytyll Cotteswolld woll at Callez and y understond Lombardys has bowght ytt up yn Ynglond and ze undyrstonde what sobstons is at London to schyppe I hope ther whas nott a better markett toward for Cottes woll many a day. I woll nott avysse ze to schype in the dede of wynter ytt yss long lyyng fowlle whedyr and jepardes for stormys.

Of tydynges I con none wryght yow for sarten as zett but at myn howllde lady [b] ys comyng from Byng [c] to Sent Tomers [d] and the ambassetters bothe of Ynglond and Fraunsse y connott say what whorlld whe shall have some of the Deukes Counsell wholld

[a] Usually a buyer of new wool was compelled to take with it a certain proportion of old (see Introduction).

[b] The Dowager Duchess of Burgundy, Margaret, sister to Edward IV.

[c] Perhaps Busigny, now in French Flanders; or Binche, in Hainault.

[d] St. Omer.

LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

hawe whar and some pesse the very grounde must come howght of Ynglond The Frenche kynge has forneshed his garysons appon the frontes all redy &c. My lady porposeth to ly at Sent Tomers and the Frensche ambassett shall ly at Tyrwhyne[a] iij wekes thens &c.

Her ys but fewe merchantes at Calles now I am in whay w^{t} Iyshbryght van whennysbarge for an ij of yowr sarplers I hope I shall go thorow w^{t} hym. I woll that y myght undyrstond be wryttyng wher the kyng porposythe to hawe whar w^{t} Frawnsse or no my brodyr Rychard may undyrstond that of my lorde yff y undyrstode be tymes y myght yff nede be porvay me of saffe condytt y whollde forst ondyrstond how the Kynge take my lordys answar &c no mor unto yow at this tyme but Jhesu hawe you and all yowrs in His kepyng Amen Wrettyn at Calles the xvj^{the} day of Novembyr Anno iiij^{xx}.

per yowr son
George Cely.

Addressed: Unto my ryght whorschypfull fadyr Rychard Cely merchant of the Stapell of Callez Dwelling at London in Marte Lane so it dd:

46

Richard Cely the younger

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

Whelbelovyd brother I recomende me harttely onto you plessythe hyt you to wndyrstond at the makyng of thys howyre father and mother and aull the howshowlde ar in good heyll at London and merry thankyd be God Sir I have ressavyd a letter from yow wrytt at Calleys the xij day of Nowembyr wherby I wndyrstonde your greve gwerof my godfather has wryttyn to yow

[a] Terouenne.

he saw howe father pensyffe and heve at Robyn Godys comyng home and afor as ze know hys condyssyon of howlde and that causyd hym so to wryte Syr howr whyen ys comyn and ys ryught good as of that contre whon hagyshed wyll gene xx^{s} and the rembenant ys lyke to be dronk her and at Aunelay * for frayte costome and caryayge my godfather has gevyn towarde Syr as towchynge the matter of your hors I harde howr father never speke whorde of them more then I whrote to yow in a letter that I sente be Assche Laybacar and as for the blynde hors I pray yow selle hym what somever ze gehyt for hym as for ij or iij hors ys not myche as ze be pwrwayd qwheras ze wryte at thay have yow in jelosy I cannote parsave hyt thay thynke as ze ar horssyd and aqwayntyd that and any whar be ze schuld be desyryd forthe w^{t} other and as fortewyn a whar ys ze to be takyn or sclayn the leyste of bothe wher j dethe bothe to father and mothe whe mwste tendyr thayr ayge and have a ny to howr own whell ze ar goyng to a marte that I know well has not bene heyllfull ner mery to yow in tyme paste qwerfor I schaul not be were myr ner qwyhet tyll I heyr of your good comyng to Callys ageyn howre father schype at thys tyme byt ij packes felles that he cowde not have no rome for at the laste schypyng and as for lyys woll schaull abyde to marche Syr whe how to my godfather xiiij^{li} ster: qwerof my lorde howys ws x^{li} I se hyme not thys viij days Petter recommend hym owto yow and thankys yow of yowr grette cheyr at Calleys he has hys deyd of my loord and as for whar betwene ws and Frawns I can thynke ze schaul have noyn ther goys hover inbassette schorttely what they ar I connott tell thys day begyn the counsell at Whestemynster Syr whe loke not for yow at thys Crystemes for becawys of the wheddyr and in aspessyaull that howre father and whe tryste at ze schull make sum good salle aftyr the hallydayes of wooll and fell as I pray God send ws ther ys lyke to be many felles for scheype begynys to dy faste in diverys contrey and I wholde whe wher doyng among hodyr men Syr I pray yow sende me the

* Alveley.

rekenyng of my loordes staife and soldallys and the spor rowell. No mor to yow at thys tyme. Jhesu kepe yow. Wryttyn at London on Sente Clementes zewyn.[a]

per yowre brother

Rechard Cely.

Addressed: Unto my ryght whell belowyd brother George Cely merchant of the estaple at Calles be thys dd.

47

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

Ryght rewerent and whorshipffull Fadyr affter all dew recomendacyon y recomeawnd me unto you in the mist lowlyest whysse that I con or may Fordyr mor plesyth ytt yow to undyrstond that y hawe sowllde unto Gysbright van Wenysbarge ij sarplers good Cottes he has takyn hon of the xx that ys packyd agen anodyr of the todyr sortt as be an byll closyd herin makes mensyon &c yt ys so that I hawe nott zett made an zend of the pakyng of your sort of xx sarplers ther ys xj pakyd all redy the cawis of the taryyng of the remenawnt ys ther was moche bettyn wholl and as sone as that con be whonde and made rede ytt shall be entyrdyd in that at ys to pake ther ys in the pakekyng of thes xj sarplers mor nan an sarpler medyll wholl cast howght as son as ytt ys packyd ze shall undyrstonde be the next how ytt ys &c. yowr wholl ys all yclowsyd and nevyr a hone packyd agen saveing that at ys fowllest arayyd ys takyn togydyr and whan yowr woll ys pakkyd ytt shall be cast howght and whardyd and so pakyd agen yowr fellis be the iiij made ye shall have mo made thane I wrott to yow of when all thynges ys feneshyd than shall ze hawe the clernesse of all thynges her ys as now but fewe merchants ther shall be som fette done betwene Ceystmesse and Candyllmasse

[a] November 22.

becawsse of the ordynaunsse wherfor now y porposse me to tarry and com nott to yow tyll Candyllmasse as of any tydynges her y con none wrytt yow as zett ther ys but y cannott hawe the trewthe therof ther has ben an veryaunsse betwne the Deukes men of whar and his Allmaynes and ther ys many of his Allmanys slayne and therfor he takes grett ceffle fur ther ys dyvars of his jentyllmen stollyn away therfor and some ar comyn to Callez and hone of them ys sent to owr soveren lorde the kynge and some and som [*sic*] ben ren Frenche men when that the Frenche kynge has gottyn lattly dyvars of the best men of whar the Dewke hade wherof he makes hym now bowllde No mor unto yow at thys tyme but Jhesu have yow and all yowrs in His kepyng Amen Wrett at Callez the xxiiij day of Novembyr Anno iiij^{xx}.

per yowr son
George Cely.

ytt ys so that y do send Harry myboye to whayght appon my brodyr thys Crystmesse.

Addressed: Unto my ryght worschypfull Fadyr
Rychard Cely merchaunt of the
Stapull of Calles being at London
in Marte Lane so it dd.

48

Rent of a 'passage-boat' recorded, and of two houses at sixteen and five shillings a year respectively.

Ryght honorable master in mi dew recommendacion I hartli recommend me unto youe and to my ladi your wiff thanckyng youe for my gret cher which I had w^{t} youe and [*sic*] my last beyng with youe Certifying your mastershipe that I was with your servant at Weymouth and at Smalmoth and whan I had delyverd your servant possession your servant was hast for to fech a hors of his one as which hors a gentilman had hired for to rid into our cuntrey that night I taried at Weymouth all nyght & so I made a

bargoyne w^{t} a honest mane for the passage bot[a] for xxvj^{s} viij^{di} bi the yer for the full terme of xx yer and the hows upone the key I have let hit to a honest mane for xvj^{s} bi the yer and the litell hows wch was at v^{s} the same tenent kyepith hit styll Thes men woll paye truely the rent ij howses as yet stondeth voide wher as thei profre for a pis but vj^{s} and viij^{di} and I graunted them for viij^{s} a pis Writtyn at Bridport the xxvj daie off November bi your servant William Preston to his litell powr in anythyng that I may doe Sir as for the obligacion I cane not fynd hyme but hit his no matter for whan that I had possession bi ladis attornaye & then the obligacion was void Sir I woll bryng the indenture at my next comyng after Cristmas bi the grace of God for to set in the ij akres of grownd and anythyng that shal be advised reasonable bi your lerned cownsel I wol be glad to do hit No more to youe at thys tyme but Jhesus preserve youe Amen.

Addressed: This be delyverd to mi honorable maister Sir Tomas Aymew Knyght and alderman of London Dwelling in Mylk Stret.

49

Rychard Cely the Younger

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

Riught whell belovyd Syr I recomend me harttely wnto yow plesythe yow to wndyrstonde that I have schypyd at London in the Grase a Dew of Calles John Markes beyng master M^{l}iiij^{xx}xiij felles qwherof be iiij^{c} xlvj Cottysowllde on markyd and the rembnant be somer and whynter of London and thay be markyd w^{t} an O

[a] Possibly a ferry-boat between Weymouth and Melcombe Regis. The sum seems too small for the passage-boat to the Channel Islands.

aull iij sortys lyes togyddyr whon w[t] anothyr befor the maste wndyr the hachys Syr ze schaull ressave of Mondanyell a letter and a fardell w[t] pelltys the master of the Grase a De schulde ave had them byt he whos awalyd and goyn no mor to yow Jhesu kepe yow Wryt at London the xij day of Decembyr.

per yowr brother
Rychard Cely.

Addressed: Wnto my whelbelovyd brother George Cely or Thomas Grayngear at Calleys be thys dd.

50

Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]iiij[xx]

Ruyght whell belovyd brother I recomeawnd me wnto yow as lovyngly as harte can thynke ples hyt yow to wndyrstond at the makyng of thys howr father and mothe and whe aull ar in good heyll and prays to God send yow a fayr passayge and bryng yow whell hyddyr Syr I have resavyd a letter frowm yow wryttyn at Calles wpon Sent Stevyns day the qweche I wndyrs to riught wh[e]ll bothe your beyng at the marte and what the marte whos and how ze porpos to be at Brgys at thys candyllmas I pray God speyd yow and sende yow good men to make yowr mony w[t] Syr I ondyrstonde be the same lettyr that ze have sowlde howre felles I thanke God and I treste God whe schawll have hever Whytsuntyd mo and Syr as for yowr ij wyrkyns whon of samon and the tothyr of tony thay ar not com zeyt Gylbard Paulmor tellys me thay be zeyt in Selond[a] w[t] geyhyr of hys and Syr I have spokyn w[t] Bongay and he spekys of yow myche whorschype Syr the xxiiij day of Genever I resavyd ij lettyrs frome yow of Harrowlld Faiwnton

[a] Zeeland.

whon to howr father another to me ze whryte to howr father that he schawll fynd clossyd in hys lettyr the sayll of ij sarpelers wholl I opynd hyt at London byt I fon[d] non ther in I sent have thys same day to howre father to Aulay [a] w[t] your letter Syr ze schaull ressave closyd in this letter howr fathers wharant of hys fellys laste schipyd hyt amowntes ls. [*sic*] ster. and as tochyng yowr laste letter my lorde ys sende for be the lorde master byt the kyng wyll not lat hym departe the kynge has wry an auffer to the lorde master my loorde prays yow when ze cwm to Brygys that ze wyll enqwer of the whenysyans [b] and florantynys of tydynges of the Rodys [c] and the kyng has comandyd my Lord Rewars [d] my loord Schambyolen [e] and my loorde of Sente Jhon [f] to go to the towyr and se hys hordenans and to amyt gonars and se that awll thynges be made redy and as for hors my loorde Rewys sendes dayly abhute to in qweyr for Syr gentyll hors ar whorthe myche mony hey[r]. I whowlde awise yow brynge hower aull yowr trottyng hors and geys [g] to kepe them I harde you say that zowr harnes whayyd to lyttyll for yow and ze bryng hyt be whell sowlde Syr I have a pyr of as fayr bregenders as ony in London I pray yow by me a fayer and sewyr bycoket a standarde a payr sclevys af ze have and a fowld of mayll and then I troste to Jhesu that I am whelharnest to kepe London w[t] Syr as for tydynges I can whryte none byt ther come inbassyturs howt of Skotelond [h] and the kynge whoullde not let them cowm no nar byt sent ther auffer to Newcastell whe say heyr that my loord Schambyrlen comys to Calles schorttely no mor

[a] Alveley. [b] Venetians.

[c] Rhodes had been unsuccessfully besieged by the Turks during the previous summer, but a new attack was apprehended.

[d] Antony Wydeville, Earl Rivers. [e] Lord Hastings.

[f] Sir John Weston. [g] Altered from goys, Joyce, the servant.

[h] The incursions of the Scots had become more troublesome in the previous summer, and the Duke of Gloucester and the Earl of Northumberland had been sent against them with little result. The Scots king, James III., apparently was trying to avert war, without success. A naval force was sent against him this year, and a treaty made with the Lord of the Isles. (Rymer, xii. 139, 140.)

to you at thys tym Jhesu kepe you whryt at London the xxiij day of Genewer.

per yowr brother Rychard Cely.

Syr I whoulde awyse yow to brynge not paste ij or iij horse w^{t} you byt and ze conde conwhay a barell or an hogyshed foull of sewyr fowllders flankardes and sum standardes of mayll whelbhowte ther whoulde be done good over them and I pray yow bryng the peys for dobletclothgs that I whrot to you for afor Kyrstemas syche as Hynys ys of I have a gowyn clothe of mostyrdewyk of my lordes leveray for you agayn ze cwm.

Addressed: Wnto my brodyr George Cely merchand of the stapell of Calleys be thys delyvyrd at Calleys or at Bregis in haste.

51

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

Item the xxiiij day of Jenyver sowld be me in the name of my fadyr Rychard Cely unto John Delopis and Gyshebryght van Wensbarge merchantes of Breges vj sarplers good cottes pris le sac xix marke numbyr and porsse affter &c.:

No. xlviij . . oo xlviij cl.
No. xxxix . . oo xlviij cl.
No. xl . . oo lx cl.
No. xxxvj . . oo lv cl.
No. xxxvij . . oo xxxvj cl.
No. xlvj . . oo lj cl.

} Summa in sakes xv sac xxviij cl.

} Argent ciiij^{xx} xij^{li} xviij^{s} ix^{d} ster.

Item yt amountes in fl. at xxv^{s} iiij^{d} le pownd. } ccxlv^{li} xiiij^{s} ij^{d} fl.
Summa . . . . . .

All p^{li} at Ester next.

52

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}

Preparations for war with France made at Calais; houses outside the gates destroyed. The priest's title, Sir William Chanon, may be noticed. Sir William Stappell has his benefice.

Ryght worshypffull Syr afftyr dew recommendaschon I lowly recommend me unto youre masterschypp &c Furder more plese hit yowre masterschypp to understonde that I hawe receyved an letter from yow the whych I hawe redd and well understonde all thynges theryn and as for yowre debenters I hawe delyverd hem to Wylliam Beneham acordyng to yowre commaundement and he hath promysyd me as sone as he ys furnyschyd w^{t} money I schall be payd and content for the pertyschon off x^{s} off the pownde w^{t} the fyrste and as for yowre warantes off xv^{s} off the pownde I have spoken to master lefftenaunte for them and he hath promysyd me that at yowre comyng to Caleys they schall be sett uppon yowre bylles of costom and subsede &c. Item Syr plese hit yow to wytt that on the xij day of Maye ther was ij frensche men chasyd an englysch schypp afore Caleys and Federston and John Dave and Thomas Owerton ley in Caleys Rode but themselffe were alonde and as sone as they sawe them they gote botes and zede a burde and soo dydd master marschall and Syr Thomas Ewerynghamand master Messefolde w^{t} deversse sowldeers off Caleys and rescudyd the englysch schypp and toke the Frensche men and I browght on off them yn to Caleys hawen the toder was so grett sche myght nott comyn but browght the master and the Capteyn to my lorde and they saye ther ys scottes amonggyst hem and they say that Federston and hys fellowys be gon w^{t} the bygges Frensche man ynto Inglonde &c Item Syr hytt ys sayd here that aftyr thys day the xij day of May ther shall no man kepe noo logyng of gestes straungers nor englysche men w^{t}owte the gates of Caleys excep ij

howssys synyd that ys serche and the water balys and eny man that hath howssynge w^{t} the gates ys warnyd to remeve hys howsse as schorttly as he can yn to the towne and sett hyt there where hym plese that he hath grownde and yff he doo nott soo stond at hys owne aventure at syche tyme that schall come to be pluckyd schorttly down or elles burnyd for the schortter warke and betwyxte thys and that tyme non of them be soo hardy excep the ij plasys affore rehersyd to loge noo man ower an nyght payne of treson &c Item Syr plese hit yow to wytt that Syr Wylliam Chanon that was logyd w^{t} John Fowlle ys ded he was beryd as on Sonday last was and Syr Wylliam stappell pryste hath ys benyveysse grauntyd be my lorde &c. Syr odder tydynges hawe we non but almyghty hawe you yn Hys kepyng Wrytten at Caleys the xiij day of Maye

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppffull master George Cely marchaunte off stapull off Calez being at Breges at the stape ys clawe soo hit dd:

53

Richard Cely the younger

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}j

Riught interly whelbelovyd brother I recomend me harttely onto you thankyng you of aull good brotherhod that ze have scheuyd to me at aull tymns Syr ze know whell that I have bene in the northe contre and ther I have had grette scheyr of my nowlde aqweyntans as the bryngar heyrof can informe you and as for my noncle ys exseketurs has promysyd me and Plomton be the faythe of ther bodys to be w^{t} howr father her myhellnes and to make a neynd w^{t} hym and as I whente northe wharde I met

Roger Wyxton a thyssyd Northehamton and he desyryd me to do so myche as drynke w^t^ hys whyfe at Laysetter[a] and after that I met w^t^ Wylliam Daulton and he gave me a tokyn to hys mother and at Laysetter I met w^t^ Rafe Daulton and he brahut me to hys mother and ther I delyvyrd my tokyn and sche prayd me to come to brekefaste on the morow and so I ded and Plomton bothe and ther whe had a gret whelfar and ther whos feyr oste and I pray yow thanke them for me Syr and ze be remembyrd whe thaulkyd togydyr in hour bed of Dawltonys syster and ze ferryd the condyscyons of father and brethyrn byt ze neyd not I saw hyr and sche whos at brekefaste w^t^ hyr mother and ws sche ys as goodly a zeunge whomane as fayr as whelbodyd and as sad as I se hany thys vij zeyr and a good haythe I pray God that hyt may be inpryntyd in yur mynd to sette yowr harte ther Syr howr father and I comende togydyr in new orchard on Fryday laste and a askyd me many qwestyonys of gyn and I towlde hym aull as hyt whos and he whos ryught sory for the dethe of the schlde[b] and I toulde hym of the good whyll that the Whegystons and Dawltons hows to yow and how I lykyd the zenge gentyllwhoman and he comaunded me to whryte to yow and he whowlde gladly that hyt whor brohut abohut and that ze laborde hyt betymys and I have towllyd howe father of Schestyrs douter how that I whowlde fayne be ther and howar father whos ryught glad of thys comenycacyon Daultons mother comendes hyr to you and thankes you for the kuynys that ze sente to hyr howr father has ressayvyd a letter frome you wherby he undyrstond of the salle ij sarplers and a plke as for the mony as ys by yow he whyll that hyt ly be yow tyll Sencyon marte and lette the mersars have the lengar days bothe Browell and Paullmar and ther mony acordyng Syr I thanke you at hyt plesehyd you to leve me Goos for he has don to me good sarves in thys gornay and I have delyvyrd to him x^s^ to bryng hym to yow. My godfather has be syke byt he ys whell mendyd thankyd

[a] Leicester.

[b] This is not 'Margaret's' baby. See date of August 29, 1482.

be God thys same day my loord [a] ys comyn to London to aske the Kyng leve to go to the Rodes [b] for he ys sent for Syr I send you be Goos a purs sche as whos gewyn me at Zeorke [c] and I pray yow by for Alyson Myhell a mantell of fyn blake schankys for I have mony ther for and sche comendes hyr to you. No mor to yow at thys tyme Jhesu kepe you. Wrytyn at London the iiij^{the} day of Juyn.

per yur brother

Rychard Cely.

Addressed: Wnto my riught whelbelovyd brother George Cely merchand of the estapell of Callez be thys dd.

54

Rychard Cely the younger

Anno Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}j

Riught whelbelovyd brother I recomend me onto you in as lovyng whyes as hart con thynke informyng you at the makyng of thys howr father and mothe ar in good heyll thankyd be God I marwhell grettely that I have no wrytyng frome you syn Geyos [d] departyd I whot not whethyr he be come to yow or note Syr my loorde [e] and the turkepler [e] goys to the Rodys [b] togyddyr thay pwrpos to be at Calles the xv day of Juyll he ys porposyd to take be exchonge of howr father an c^{li} or ij and ze to delyver hyt at

[a] Sir John Weston. [b] Rhodes. [c] York.

[d] Joyce, the servant.

[e] Sir John Weston, and Sir John Kendall, who was 'Turcoplerius Rhodi, et Locum Tenens Magni Magistri in Italia, Francia, Anglia et Flandria.' (Rymer xii. 112.) The Turcoplerius was a Lieutenant to the Grand Master. Sir John Kendall was made Prior to the Order of St. John in England in 1491. In 1480 the great siege of Rhodes by the Turks had been successfully resisted. Early in 1481 Mohammed II. was preparing to lead a new expedition in person, but died on May 3. Very likely the news of the abandonment of the expedition had not yet reached England.

Bregys or Calles my loord prays you to gette hym as mony doketys and rynyshe gyldyrns as ze may I whoulde wryte mor byt thys day I departe into Cottssould. No more. Jhesu kep you. Wryte at London the xxiiij day of Juyn.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: Unto my brother George Cely marchand of the estapell at Calles or the marte be thys dd.

55

Rychard Cely the younger

I gret you whell and I pray yow heve my brother George Cely be not comn to Callez that ze wyll sende thys box and my letter to hym in aull the haste or hellys and ze knowe none sewyr man that goys I pray you take an hors and go yowrsellfe to Bregys to my brother and delyver hym them I have sent Hayre w^{t} the wolflet and barell and a wyrkyn of befe and a barell candyll I purpos to be w^{t} scoostely.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: Thys letter be delyvyrd to Goos sarvant w^{t} George Cely merchand of the staple at Callez.

56

Rychard Cely the younger

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}j

Ryught interely whelbelovyd brother I recomend me wnto yow w^{t} aull myne harte informyng yow that at the makyng of thys howr father and mother ar in good heyll and sendys yow ther

blessynges Syr I send you Hayne [in Mwndunyellys schyp][a] and I have bohut a nox for yow hyt coste xvj^{s} and I pwrpose to sell hys tallow and skyn and by therw^{t} candyll and I have sent you by Hayn a borell of candyll wher in ys xiiij dosyn and an hawlfe a dosyn of x the *li.* and ij dosyn vj le *li.* and aull the remenant cownter candyll of v^{d} q^{u} the *li.* I send yow by Hayne yowr whyt fryse and ij bytes and a barell befe and wyrkyn w^{t} the same Syr my loord has made howyr vc^{li} to resave of Lombardes at Bregys in flemysche mony the qweche ys payabull w^{t} in vj days after the syt my loor pwrpos to send yow hys letteryrs to scheu and ze to ressave thys mony I porpos to be wyt yow at my lordys comyng and then I schaull informe yow of many thynges Syr as for Haynys passayge ys payd for and yowr geve aull so no mor to yow.

Jhesu kepe yow. Wryttyn at London xxj day of July.

I pray yow se to yowr befe at hyt take no harme when hyt cwm to Callez.

per your brother
Rychard Cely.

Addressed: Wnto my whel belovyd brother George Cely merchant of the estapell at Callez.

57

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}j

Riught interly whelbelovyd brother I recommend me harttely onto yow informing you at the makyng of thys howr father and mother ar in good hell and sendys yown ther blessynges Syr my loord comendys hym harttely wnto yow and thankys yow of your letter and syche tydynges as he knowys a wryttys yow parte and he prays yow harttely that ze wholl be good factur for hym at thys tyme as ze have beyn in tyme passy as hever he may desarve hyt

[a] The words between the brackets crossed out.

Syr he has made howyr w^{t} Lombardys to Brogys apon vc^{li} qwerof he sendes to you iij lettyrs of exchonge the qwyche he prays yow to schow them for thay ar payabull w^{t} in viij days after the syhyt and ther ys in the same box ij lettyrs myssne my loorde prays yow to delyver them to the sayd Lombardes at Brogys I wholde not avyse yow to ressave none of thys mony tyll my loor cum hymselfe he prays you to dessyer them to make hym fayr payment at the day and be whowlde fayne that ze wher at Callez at hys comyng he pwrpos to brynge w^{t} hym ij or iij c^{li} of starlyng mony has a letter of passayge for the serche for hymselfe and 1 parsonys he prays yow that ze wyll make serche in the coletry or ony syche plasse as ze thynke that docettes wenycyons may be getyn he purpos to be at Calles the iij day of Augwste at the fardest and ther comys w^{t} hym master twrkepler [a] Syr Wylliam Wheston [b] Syr James Dane w^{t} many mo godfellows and at that tymy I schaull tell you many thynges I longe sore to speke w^{t} yow. No more to you at thys tyme. Wryt at London on Sent Tanys day.[c]

per yowr brother
Rychard Cely.

Addressed: Wnto my whelbelovyd brother George Cely merchant of the estaple beyng at Calles or Bregys be thys letter or box dd.

58

Rychard Cely the elder

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}j

I gret you wyll and I have resayvyd a lecter from you wryte at Caleys the xxv day of Jule the weche I have wyll understand and that ye have be at the marte and resayvyd pert of my detys

[a] Sir John Kendall.
[b] A Knight of St. John, brother to Sir John Weston the Prior.
[c] St. Anne's Day, July 26.

and zeve hover be exschange to mersers my money for the weche I am wyl plesyd and I have resayvyd of John London Robard Brone purser a packe of canvase acordyng to youre wrytyng also I fely be youre lecter ye avyse me for to by woll in Cottyswolde for soche I schall have of John Cely ys gaderyng xxx sacke and of Wyll Medewynter of Norlache[a] lx sacke and I am avysyd for to by mor but woll in Cottyswolld ys at grete pryse xiij^{s} iiij^{d} a tode and gret rydyng for woll in Cottyswolde as was onny zere thys vij zere I fele be youre wrytyng that my Lorde of Send Jonns[b] wolde have a C or to flemeche be exschaunge for ij zere day for soche I promysyd to my lorde for vij^{s} the nobyll but I here no more thereof werefor at the comyng of my lorde at Caleys or at Brygys I wyll ye make an exschaunge wyt my lorde of Send Johnns and he wyll desyar for to have a C^{li} fl. or more I wolld fayne plese ys lordschepe for to hese hym lyke as ye wryt to me.

In the handwriting of Rychard Cely the younger:

Syr howr father has whryt to you hys intent in the for partte of thys letter and my loord whowl pray you to take the labor to Bregys for hys matter and he pwrpos for whery sartten to departe frome London the iij day of Auguste and at hys cowmyng I schawll informe yow of many thynges. No mor to you. Whrytten at London the laste day of Jully.

Addressed (by Richard Cely the younger): Unto my riught whelbelovyd brother George Cely merchand of the estaple at Caleys or Bregys be thys dd.

59

Bedfelow I comaund me to you and I thank you hertely of the good lodgeng that ye fand us at Derford[c] I had forgettyn to have spokyn with you that and ye myght for to a provyded for me a fur

[a] Northleach. [b] Sir John Weston. [c] Dartford.

of boge on of the fynest that ye can feynd in Byrgesse I trust be the cownsell of my cosyn your brother and you that and ther be any fyne in Byrgesse that ye wyll fynd hit and at your comyng ye shalbe trewlye payed therfor what somever it cost. And I pray as hertely as can that as sone as ye may that ye hast you homward for heyr is a heve howseold consyderyng that my lord and his feloship ys departed. No more to you at this tyme but Almyghty God have yow in hys kepyng. At Seyntz Johnz [a] the iiij[th] day of August.

I pray you lat maister Wylliam my lord Chapelen undorstond that the parson of the church within Newgate [b] that is in my lordes gyfte ys dessesced this howre.

By your bedfelow Syr
Roland Thornburght.

Addressed: To my worshipfull bedfelow George
Sele this be delyvered.

60 ✓

Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]iiij[xx]j

Ryght rewerent and worschypfull fader affter all dew recomendacyon pretendyng I recomeownde me unto yow in the most lowlyest whysse that I con or may Forder mor plesyth ytt you to understond that it ys now condessendyd that ther [c] shall be an partysseon of xv[s] of the pownd of the debentyrs and byllis of xviij monthis and xviij and obllygacyons of whollis bowght all in hon casse &c. her ys moche ado w[t] us at Calles and ther ys grett uttraunsse of wholl as Thomas Graynger con infforme yow her ys none hottraunsse of fellis nor whas nott sen the marte j sawe newer Hollendars make whorsse payment in my dayys God amend ytt ze

[a] Clerkenwell. [b] St. Nicholas Shambles.
[c] Written above 'heny man' crossed out.

shall resseywe an byll clossyd herein of the salle of iij sarplers sowlld to John Vanderhay of Mekelyn of yowr medell cottes ytt ys so that I loke for my lord of Sent Jonys * dayly and at his comyng I wholl breng hym appon the way or do as my broder shall avysse me to do for the mayr ys porpossyd to departe an Fryday com viij dayys and I am porpossyd to come hovyr to you that same tyme myselffe and than shall I show unto you be mowthe many thynges &c. and so con the brenger herof plesythe ytt you to undyrstond that yowr wholl ys an whardyd for good Cottes be Wylliam Bretten and Harry Jon ther was non sarplers cast howght but sen an ij^{d} showe of hoder tydynges I con non wrytt unto you but Jhesu kepe you Amen Wrett at Calles the v day of Augost.

per yowr son
George Cely.

Addressed: Unto my ryght whorschypfull Fader Rychard Cely merchant of the stapull of Callez at London in Marte Lane so it dd.

61

Jhesu Anno M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}j

Right worchipfull Syr and Broder after all dew recommendacyon hayd I recomaund me unto you and unto my Broder and yours Rychard Cely. Further more Syr plese yow to wit that here hese be Gysbreth van Wynbarow and I have sold hym the vj sarplers of the Cottes old wooll that freeth hymsellff acordyng to your remembrance alsoy Syr wenyng to me that they wold have hayd Syr your new wool for they causyd me to kep hyt iiij or v dayes and then the sayd the staple therof was to schoortte notwythstandyng had they not bene I had soold partt therof un[to] Arnold Johnson from Andwarpe and as for fells I can seell non

* Sir John Weston.

ytte God knowes I wold be ryght glayd to do that that myght be plesur unto you in sayelles or oder wayes and yf ony Holonders come done I schall do my best in sayelles to my otterst poyer boyth in wooll and ych feelles. I remember well that yow desered to my best for Wylliam Maryon felles and Syr ytt schall nott be so forgetten and Gud wyll And Syr wat plese yow that youre wyll schall be don w^t^ such money as I have by me yt schall be redy for yow whersum ever ze wyll have ytt wheder ytt be at Calley, Bruges or Andwarpe Syr they laytter end of next weke I purpose in to Flaunders Alsoy Syr I have wretten your affor thys that I have sent yow yowr gounysse the wych I trost ze have resevyd or thys tyme alsoy Syr your horson doyth weell God sawe them and Syr thys weke have we hayd in iij loodes heey for you Syr as towchy[ng] all oder maytters I schall do my best and hath done to sum of them and I have reseyved of Prestun xx^s^ fls Andwarp and I spoken w^t^ the oders that ow you money but yette can I geet no moch thereof Syr I have lent un[to] Andrew Hawes iiij^li^ but I havve and swerte thereof that I shalbe w^t^ at my plesur and the byll ys mayd in my name and he sayeth wher yow come ze schuld have a bargyn of hym to pay me agayne &c. Syr I pray yow that I may be recomaundyd unto my mayster your fayder and moder. No more to yow at thys tyme but our Lord send yow lang lyff and gud to His plesur and yours. At Calley w^t^ owt gattes the xxij day of September.

Your Broder
John Dalton.

Alsoy Syr I forgeet not your hawkes but her comes non but the farest that I may geet for money I schall send yow w^t^ Godes grace.

Addressed: Unto my interly beluffyd brother Jorge Cely merchaunt at the staple of Calles.

so it don.

62

Anno Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}j

Whelbelovyd I grehyt yow whell and as for yowr pesse of gowlde whe cannot fynde hyt zeyt nethyr heyr no whord of my bowhay I have a cheys frome my mother to send yow I marwhell grettely that we have no whrytyng of my brothers comyng to Calleys and as for Py ys whell mendyd and the Thorsday after yowr departtyng the gray b^{he} whelpyd and had xiiij and on the Sattyrday next afftyr sche dyed sodenly and x of her whelpys and so iiij be kepyd as whell as thay can be Geoos I pray the send me the aulmen dagar that my brother gave me and send me whorde zefe Wesylton sellyd heny of my brothers hors whyll he wher heyr or not and commend me to Wessylton and aull good fellows, no more. Whryt at London the xvj day of Octobur.

per Rychard Cely the zeungar.

I pray the sende my brothers letter to hym in haste.

Addressed: Unto Gese sarwhant w^{t} George Cely marchand of the estapell at Calleys.

63

Ryght worschyppfull Syr after dew recommendaschon I lowly recommend me unto yow doyng yow to wytt that be the grace of God ze schall receyve of the Mary Grace of London, John Lokyngton master vj packes felles whych lyeth nex the maste after warde loweste and nexte abowe them lyeth v packes felles of Thomas Graunger of the vj packes fell beth vcxxviij caste small tale wynter

felles of London markyd wyth ynccke the marke ys a C and certeyn somer felles the marke ys of them a O whyche vj packys ye muste receyve and paye the frayte. No more unto att thys tyme but Jhesu kepe you. Wrytte at London the xxvj day of October.

per yowr servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To George Cely merchaunte of the stapell of Calys.

soo hit dd.

64

Jhesu

Worshipfull Coyssyn wyt dn recomendassions premysit it is so I come to Rome the xv day of Octobre and was ryt welcome w^{t} one nobleman saying thay sawe not hys sye [*sic*] & solequelly a fellychyppe for so manny and in that aray come howte of Ynglonde the pope hollynes made me gret cher and wallde a seute me home agayn and follet me of al mannor abedyensses or comandementt made to me or motte be made bot I, Syr desyret is hollynes at I mette do my vayage sennes I was so far fourthe and so is ollyness sendes me as is imbassador wyt materis of gret importanss I truste do be the sonner a come be Godes grace Coyssyn as toshith the mater of the staple Ryscharde Herzon the kynges proctor and I as don in that mater as meche as motte be don to fulfylle the kynges intente and the wel of the marchantes of the staple for I take God to recorde and the brynger of this gere at I dede in is as mess as I wolde affe don and they ad gyn me a gret gud as thay sal se al the remedyis and demaundes at thesayde Herzon makys I sende hayme ben the sayde frere I promesse zow he is gretly favouret and he wolde a made a fol werke and remedy an not son be fonde Coyssyn I pray zow sende me worde of your welfare and comande

me to my fader and zours and your moder and Jhesu keppe yow. At Rome the xxvij day of Octobre 1487.

Be your coyssyn Syr John
Weston Pryor of Santjohns.

Addressed: To is worshypfull Coyssyn Jorge Sellay this leter be deleverde at Callez.

65

Jhesu

Ryght rewerent Syr and my specyall good frend y recommend ne unto yow evere mor deseyryng to her of yowre well far Forder mor plesed yow to wete that y have schypped in the Mare of Raynam,[a] John Danyell beyng master, vj packys halffe lvij somer London felles contaynyng M[l]M[l]vjclvij felles the wyche be bystowyd in the sayd scheppe all afor the mast and lowyst abafte the maste and yowre broder Recherd Cely ys ys [*sic*] felles bestowyd abaft the mast upon myn and ther have no more men felles in the sayd schyppe but yowre broder and y ther be of hys felles iiij packys xlj felles the wyche felles y pray yow that ye woll ressay for me and to do housse them the on halffe in on housse and the toder hallffe in anoder housse and that wer met for the marchant beyer and y pray yow that ye woll paye the freyght and all scheche oder sostys as schall ron up on them. No mor unto yow at thys tym but the Trenyte have yow in hys blessed kepyng. Wreten at London the xxviij day of October Anno Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]iiij[xx]j.

per Wylliam Maryon.

Addressed: Unto George Cely marchaunt of the stapall at Callez thes letter be delyverde.

2. 2.

Of the schippyng of M[l]M[l]vj[c]lvij felles of Wylliam Maryons.

[a] Rainham, in Essex. See Letter of October 31, 1481.

66

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}j

Ryght worshyppfull Syr after dew recommendaschon I lowly recommend unto yow lettyng yow understonde that my master hath schyppyd hys felles at the portte of London now at thys schyppyng yn October yn the yere abowesayde whych felles ze muste receyve and paye the frayghte fyrste be the grace of God in the Mary of London, Wylliam Sordyvale master, vij packes sum ij^{ml} viij^{c} fell lying be afte the maste [a] j pack lyeth upprest and sum of that packe ys somer felles markyd w^{t} an O and than lyeth iij packys felles of Wylliam Daltons and under them lyeth the toder vj packys of my masters. Item yn the Cristower of Raynam [b] Harry Wylkyns master, vij packes and a hallffe cottes fell sum iijM^{l} pelt lying be affte the maste and under them lyeth a ij c felles of Wether Fyldes, Wylliam Lyndys man of North Hampton and the partyschon ys made w^{t} small cordys. Item yn the Thomas of Maydeston Harry Lawsson master vj pokes sum ij M^{l} iiij c pelt wherof lyeth v packys nexte before the maste under hatchys [c] noo man abowe them and j pack lyeth yn the sterne shete of the vj packes felles beth sum somer felles markyd w^{t} an O lyke wyse. Item yn the Mary Grace of London John Lokyngton master vj pack, sum ij M^{l} iiij c pelt lying be affte under the felles of Thomas Graunger, the partyschon betwyxte them ys made w^{t} rede, sum of the felles my master hath schyppyd at thys tyme, xxvj packes and a hallffe wherof be wynter felles of the contrey v c lvj felles and they be markyd w^{t} an C. and of somer felles ther schuld be v jc and moo but parte of them be lefte behynde for we hawe ij packes we cowde hawe noo pwoyntment for them and all the somer felles be markyd w^{t} an O. Item Syr ye schall receyve of the Mary of Raynam,[b] John Danyell master, yowr male w^{t} yowr gere and a esex chesye

[a] The *Mary* was apparently a single-masted vessel with deck cargo.
[b] Rainham, in Essex. [c] A single-masted vessel, but decked.

markyd w^{t} my masters marke. Item Syr ye schall receyve of the Crystower of Raynam Harry Wylkyns master, a fardell of pelltes markyd w^{t} incke my godfader Maryons marke and w^{t} chauke my masters marke and parte of them be my masters and parte my godfader Maryons and my masters be markyd w^{t} a C. No more unto yow at thys tyme but Jhesu kepe yow. Wrytten at London the laste day of October.

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Item Syr ye schall receyve be the grace of God of the Myhell of Hull Andrew Goodes master j pack fell conteynyng iiij c felles wherof sum of them be of the vj c xliij somer felles and ye muste paye noo frayte for them for the frayte was payd at London.

Item Syr ye schall receyve be the grace of God of the Thomas of Newhythe[a] Robard Ewen master j pack hallf a c xiiij felles lying nexte the maste affte warde under the felles of Thomas Bettsons and a few broken felles and pesys bownde togeder markyd w^{t} my master marke and they lyeth uprest nexte the maste and they be the laste end of all my masters felles, sum to all yn packys xxviij packys and a hallff lxiiij felles.

Addressed: To George Cely merchaunte of the stapell of Caleys be thys dd.

67

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}j

Ryght worschypfull Syr After dew recommendaschon I lowly recomend me unto yow lettyng yow wytt that be the grace of God ye schall receyve of the Thomas of Newhythe[a] Robard Ewen master j pack hallff a c xiiij felles and a lytyll fardell of felles that ys alowyd for iij felles with the costomer and the sayd felles lyeth nexte be afte the maste lowest under the felles of Thomas Bettson

[a] Newhithe on the Medway.

and the lytyll fardell lyeth juste to the maste uprest of my masters felles whych felles ye muste receyve and paye the frayght. No more unto yow at this tyme but Jhesu kepe you. Written at London the second day of November.

per yowre servaunte

Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To George Cely merchaunte of the staple of Caleys be this letter delyverd.

On the Dorse: Of shippyng of iiij^{c}lxiiij felles.

68

Rychard Cely the younger

Anno Jhesu iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}j

Riught whell belovid brother I recomend me wnto yow wyth aull myne hart informeyng yow at the makyng of thys howr fathe and mother were whell comforttyd and sendys yow ther blessynges hyt whos so that be the menys of Brandon howr father and I wher indyttyd for scleyng of an hartte that whos drevyn into Kent the qweche whe nevyr se ner knew of and thys day I have ben w^{t} master Mwngewmtre[a] and gevyn hym the whalew of a pype whyn to have ws howt of the boke hevir hyt be schewyd the Kyng and so he has promysyd me and to be good master to howr father and ws in the matter betwhene Brarddon [*sic*] and hus John Froste Foster brohut me to hys mastyrschyp and aqwaynttyd me w^{t} a gentyll mane of hys hos name ys Ramston that ys a ny mane to master Mongewmbre and so I mwste informe hym my matters at aull tymys and he whyll sche them to hys master &c Syr I have ressavid a letter frome yow wryte at Calleys wherby I wndyrstonde ze have pwrwayd x^{li} in carolus grottes I pray yow

[a] Sir Thomas Montgomery, Member of the Privy Council to Edward IV. and Steward of the King's Forest of Essex.

send them at the next passayg for I pwrpos schorttely into Cottysowllde and I have informyd my godfather that ze have made for hym w^{t} Wylliam Browell xxxj^{li} and I thanke God that He pwt hyt in yowr mynd to have the c xxx^{li} howt of the whystelers[a] handys when I whos laste w^{t} yow at Bregys Syr hyt whosso that when Whykyng[b] whos deyd and another whos chossyd howr father whos sor kawlyd apon and byt at Chary[b] whos bettyr knowyn howre father hade beyn scheryfe &c howr father wyll that ze by vj^{e} stykes more canvas at thys marte and I wndyrstonde that ze have sowlde yowr grehyt gray hors and I am ryught glade therof for ij ys as good as xx I wndyrstonde that ze have a fayre hawke I am ryught glade of hyr for I trwste to God sche schall make yow and me ryught grehyt sporte zefe I whor sewyr at what passayge ze whollde send her I whowlde fett hyr at Dowyr and kepe hyr tyll ze cwm a grehyt inforttewin ys fawlyn on yowr beche for sche had xiiij fayr whelpys and aftyr that sche hade whelpyd sche whelde newyr hett mette and so sche ys deyd and aull her whelpys byt I tryste to pwrwhay agayn yowr comyng as fayr and as good to plesse that genttyll man I wndyrstond ze pwrpos to be w^{t} ws for Crystemes and therof whe be riught glade and whe schaull make mery whethyr Brandon wyll or not be the grasse of God and as for Py ys as hartty as hevir I sau hym and in ressenabull good plyte and hole Wylliam Cely do ys partte whell in kepyng of hym and as for howr pensyon in fornyng whall ys in schaull be payde wythin thys iiij days Syr heyr aftyr aperythe howr father schypyng and schypys namys and mastyrs

Item in the Mary of London Wylliam Sordywoll master vij packys cottsowllde fellys bestowyd behynde the maste vj be wndyr holl[c] and a packe lyes wpwrmwste apon Dawlttons behynde the maste . . . . . } Summa xxj^{c}viij fellz

[a] Money-changer. Wisselen, in Flemish, 'to exchange.' See May 13, 1482.
[b] William Wikyng, Sheriff of London, died 1481; Richard Chaury succeeded him.
[c] Below the deck.

Item in the Crystower of Rayname[a] Hary Wylkyns master vij packys and an hawlfe cottsowlde thay ly behynd the maste and no mane abowe them	Summa xxx^{c} fellz
Item in the Tomas of Maydston Hary Lawson master vj packys cottysowlde medyllyd w^{t} somer London fellys markyd w^{t} O thay ly befor the maste wndyr hatches and parte behynde zevyn next the maste in a pyle as brod as ij fellys be long	Summa xx^{c}iij fellz
Item in the Mary Grasse of London John Lokyngton master vj packes fellys qwherof be vclvj whynter London thay be markyd w^{t} C. and the rembnant be Cottsowlde thay ly behynde the maste and Granger apon them and Rade betwyn them	Summa xx^{c}iiij fellz
Item in the Myhell of Lyll,[b] Andrew Good master j packe fellz cottsoulde medyllyd w^{t} somer London markyd w^{t} O. thay ly behynde the maste wpurmoste and I have payde hyme hys hole frayte for that packe fellys	iiij^{c} fellz
Item in the Thomas of Newhythe[c] Robard Hewan master a packe lxiiij fellz Cottysowlde thay ly behynde the maste and Bett sonys fellz ly abowe them	iiij^{c}lxiiij fellz
Summa total of howr fathers fellz	xjM^{l}iiij^{c}lxiiij fellz
Item in somer London fellz	vjclxiij fellz
Item in whyntter London	vclvj fellz
Item in Cottsowlde	xM^{l}ijcxlv fellz

[a] Rainham, in Essex. [b] Hull. *See* Letter of Oct. 31.
[c] Newhithe on the Medway.

Item in the Mary of Rayname John Dangell master I schyppyd iiij packys xlj fellz of yowrs and myn thay ly behynde the maste iij packys of them be Cottsowlde and whon packe xlj fellz be Wharwykeschyre thay ly wppurmwste I pray yow lay them by themselfe for hurtteyng of the tother sorte . . . . . } xvjcxlj fellz

Item my godfather has vj packys a hawlfe lvij fellz in the same schype and no mane has a fell in that schype byt whe my godfadyr and I . } Summa xxvjclvij somer London fellz

And I have spokyn w^t^ Wylliam Dawlton and schewyd hym the clawys that ze whrat of Laysetter[a] in and he whos riught glade therof I whosse hys geste on Hawlhalou hevyn in howlde Fysche Strette at dynar w^t^ hym and Charllys Wyllars I pray yow thanke the at ther comyng to Calles Syr I whowllyd fayn heyr some good tydyngys of yowr matter that Claysse Demowll has in hande No more to yow at thys tyme Jhesu kepe yow Whrtte [*sic*] at London the v day of Nowembyr.

per yowr brother
Rychard Cely.

Addressed : Unto my whell belovyd brother George Cely merchant of the stapell be at Caleys so dd.

69

Jhesu

Ryght reverent Syr and my specyall frende I recomaund me unto you ever mor deseyryng to her of yowre wellfare for yt hat be sayd unto us her that ye hath be sor seke but y truste to Good ye be now amended my master yowre fader and my maysterys yowre

[a] Leicester.

modere hat ben ryght hevy for yow after tym that they hard that ye war seke ther coude nothyng make them mery nat tyell yt warre Alhalowhyn heven heven [*sic*] that my master hat wrytyng from yow also my maysterys yowre moder and yowre broder Rechard thay have had a lytell fette of sekenes to but now I thanke God they be amended and all holl and so I trust to God ye be also Syr I pray yow that ye woll remember my bellys of the holondorys the weche that be payabell now at thys could marte and zeff so be that ye ressayed I could pray yow that ye would bestowhyd no mader of thys sum yerys growyng yeff so be that ye can beyhyt for a nobell the c and yeff ye can nott bey for a nobell a c. than I pray yow that ye woll by me non but yeff yt owte unto som good man and yeff Rechard Robard Eyryk ys schyld have any ned of any mony now at thys mart I pray yow that ye woll delyver unto hem as mesche as he woll have and I pray yow lyke as I have wreten unto yow dyverys tymes her beforn that ye woll bey for me now at thys mart a xx or a xxx yelles of fyn halffter for to make me schetys therwyt and also that ye woll bey for me a dagar seche as ye thynke ys good for me also Syr yeffe my wenter felles be nat ysowld wan ye com hover into Hynglond now at Screstemas y pray yow that ye woll speke unto Thomas Grager and yeff hym the chard and the gydyng of my felles the wylys that ye be her in Ynglond Also Syr ye schall understond that Peleppe Seller ys desesyd her at London and therfore my master yowre fader would that ye would nat lat seche thynkys as ye have in yowre handys in plege for to do parte owte of yowre handys tyell ye be sewer of seche mony as ye schuld have of hem &c. Wreten at London the viij day of November &c.

per Wylliam Maryon.

Addressed: Unto George Cely marchant of the stapull at Calles thys letter be delyverde.

On the Dorse: Lettyrs.

70

Rychard Cely the younger

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}j.

Ruight whellbelovyd brother I recomende me hartteley unto yow informyng you at the makyng of thys howr father and mother and whe aull ar in good heyll and so whe treste that ze be Syr I have whryttyn to yow dyvarys lettyrs byt I have of them none anssor the laste I sente be Kay therin wher many maters and amonge aull I pray you remembyr the x li that ze pwrvayd at the laste marte and send hyt at the nexte passayge for I had beyn in Cottyssowlde hen thys byt for tarryng on that mony and as for howre matter that howr father and I and Loutlay wher in dyttyd for whos be Brandons sormyse that whe schulde dryve an harte howyr Temys the qweche whos sclayn at Darteford and that whe schulde scle ij hynde caulluys and aull thys he dyde hymsellfe w^{t} myche more and ys in dyttyd hymselfe for the detthe of ij harttes and sartte cawluys hyt ys so that Syr Tomas Mongehowmbre [a] ys comyng to Calleys wharde and so he whyll consent Tomers [b] for to fete my lady I pray you at hys comyng whate apon hym and thanke hym for us for he has beyn howr spessyall good master in thys mater and has promysyd me to contenew and labord for for [*sic*] us and thorrow hys labor I am cwm in qwaytans of dyvars whowrschypfull men that wyll myche for ws for hys sake I gawhe hym of howr fathers pwrs an c s. and Ramston a gentyllmane of hys iij s. iiij d. I pray yow make hym good scheyr for he has beyn good cellyssytor for ws and he brynge ys yow a letter frome me and whe whoulde be ryughte glade and ze myhyt be redy to cwm in cowmpany of my lady w^{t} master Mongewmbre for he pwrpos to be heyr afor Cyrstemes and as for howre for sayde matter whe have howre supar sedyas for aull iij and howr father ys fully

[a] Sir Thomas Montgomery. [b] *sic*. It means, 'Come to St. Omer.'

agreyd that ze schawll have howyr at yowr depattyng ageyn Hectyr and four [*sic*] for the lewhenftenawt of Gravenyng[a] in recwmpense of yow bothe for he wyll kepe no mo grewandes a whyll be greabyll to kepe a hawke and spaynellys and so I have my loordys hawke and a kepar byt he cwmys not heyr tyll I cum howt of Cottyssowlde for he and sche goys w[t] me to Attyrbery[b] and as for yowr hawke I cowde not kepe hyr my besynes whos so gret I have sowlde hyr for vij nobullys byt whone nobyll ys pwt on yowr wyll at yowr comyng sche whos not hawlfe in samyde I whowlde awyse yow to bryng anothyr w[t] yow and ze may grhyt hyr gowd schepe hyt ys informyd howr father at ther ys myche Normandy canwhas at Calles he wyll that ze by for hym iij[c] awnys and send them be the wholschypys and as for tydynges I cane none byt my zeunge lady of Zeurke[c] ys deyd no mor to yow whryttyn at London the xxvj day of Nowhembyr.

per yowr brother
Rychard Cely.

howr mothe whowlde the ze wyllyd by for hyr
mor greyn gynger and a qwhattyrn safron

Addressed: Unto my ruight whellbelovyd brother George Cely merchand of the estapell beyng at Calleys so dd:

71

Rychard Cely the younger

Anno Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]iiij[xx]j

Riught whell belovyd brother I recomend me unto yow plesse hyt yow to whete that I have tarryd heyr in London for

[a] Gravelines. [b] Adderbury, in Oxfordshire.
[c] Lady Anne Mowbray, the nominal wife of the child Richard, son of Edward IV.

whryttyng frowm yow thys xiiij days hevyr syn Kay departtyd and thys day I ressayvyd a letter frowme yow be Randowlfe the stapell clarke I sent yow a letter be Flemynges mane, anothyr be Kay, a thyrd be Benet Trotter, aull iij sowndyng whone matter &c Syr I undyrstond be yowr letter that aull the whowlschypys ar cwm to Calles savyng vij qwher of ij be spent I trwste to God that the Crystower of Rayname [a] be cwm to Calleys be thys and as for howre matter of indyttemente whe be thore and have howr sewpsedyas undyr sele of hoffes of my loorde of Essex [b] the Kynges lewhetenawnt of the forreste byt hyt have coste myche mony byt and Sur Thomas Mongewmbre [c] had not beyn howr goode master hys wholld acoste myche mor and my loorde of Essex hasse confermyd and subferyvyd hundyr hys syngnet the same whryttyng that my loorde of Sent Johnys [d] gav me and thys same daye I departe into Cottysowllde I may tarry no leng and ther rydys w[t] me Wylliam Cely apon Py your hors and I have w[t] me my fawkener w[t] my lordes hawke that noyn of howr hows ken of I sau heyr newyr fle zeyt the fawkener and hawke schawll be w[t] howr father and hus at my cwmyng home schepe dys wpe in Englelonde No more unto yow at thys tyme Jhesu kepe yow. Whyttyn at London the xxviij day of Nowhembyr.

per yowr brother
Rychard Cely.

Addressed: Unto my whell belovyd brother
George Cely marchand of the
stapell at Calleys be thys delyiverd.

[a] Rainham, in Essex.

[b] Henry Bourchier, Earl of Essex, Master of the Royal Forests south of Trent, November 18, 1461. He died in 1483.

[c] Sir Thomas Montgomery, Steward of the King's Forest of Essex.

[d] Sir John Weston.

72

Rychard Cely the younger

Probably written in 1481, Richard Cely the elder being alive.

Ruight whelbelovyd brother, I recomende me unto yow as lovyngly as harte can devyse or thynke plese hyt yow to undyrstond thys same day I ressayvyd a letter frowm yow be Kay and the fayreste sor[a] hawke thys day w[t] in aull Yngelond the qweche schaul be as whelkepyd tyll ze cwm be the grase of God and I have yowr box w[t] saulwe hyt schall be whell kepyd tyll ze cwm and I am ryughte glade of your apwnttemente and pwrpos to be heyr at Sente Tomas tyde. Syr I sente yow a lettyr by Robard Flemyngys man by the qwyche ze myte heyr of aull owr schypynge and many hother maters at has beyn to me laborous and owr father and ws cwstelew. Syr I pray yow send me the x[li] that ye whrate to me ze had pwrwhayde in carlys grottes. I porposyd to be yn Cottysowlld w[t] in iij daye after the dat of thys byt for taryng for that x[li] byt hyt cwm w[t] in thys xij dayes I am hawlfe shamyd hellys be my promys and ther for I pray yow for God sake rememyr my pwr honeste. Syr howr father whyryttys to yow an letter I awyse yow loke threon and undyrstonde hyt whell for he thynkes the whorllde qwhessy and ze ar whelknowyn and therfor he whowlde that ze gehart not yowrselfe to hofton to Bregys rather he had levyr ze sent Geos and as for tydynges I can whrytte yow noyn byt hyt ys sayd ther schawlbe a cownsell and a parlemente sone after. Syr I have ressayvyd my lorddys[b] hoby and I schawll have the hawke and I hawe a goode kepar of my nowyn pwrwyans byt I pwrpos to have hym and that hauke to Melcheburne[c] and leve yowr mehyg w[t] what kyn fawkyner at

[a] Lat. *sorus* or *saurus*, a hawk of a year old.
[b] Sir John Weston.
[c] Melchbourn, in Bedfordshire, where was a Preceptory of the Hospitallers.

Bwshay[a] or hellys to have her w[t] me in to Cottysould. Plumar has promysyd me to brynge me to my loorde of Essex and I to schew hym that my loorde gave me at Barwyke[b] I undyrstond that my sayd loorde sayce that he newyr gave Brandon no powher I schall whryte mor playnely to yow be my nexte letter. I have delyvyrd Kay iij s acordyng to yowr whryttyng and vj d mor becaus he says he whos robbyd be the whay of iij s. byt the thevys gave hym viij[d] ageyn . . . he delyvyrd me the hawkes in savete and he sayd ze spake to master . . .te and marschaull for yowr sarwantes and ze had them grawnttyd . . . vc Doche pepwll whos pwt hut of Calles No more wryt at London . . . . day of Nowhembyr.

per yowr brother
Rychard Cely.

Addressed: Unto my whellbelovyde brother George Cely marchand of the stapell at Calleys dd.

73

Jhesu

Worschipfull Broder after all dew recommendacyon hayd I recommaund unto yow &c. Further mor Syr it ys so that we lack pelltes her and we have sent for to Sent Tamos[c] and ther we bene promesyd to have ij c for yow and I have sent to Bryges and to Sandwych for mo pelltes for we must have mo for yow and Syr Robard Byngham sent to me for iiij nobles of queyt rent for the ground ze have bowght of Andrew Howes and I told hym I know not therof yff it wer your dewte to do I wold answer thertto wherffor I pray yow of answer, alsoy Syr it ys soo that Botrell hase be uncurtese in hes dedis for he hath thrawn in at your wooll house wendow dengke among yowr felles and syn that tyme he

[a] Bushey, in Herts. [b] Berwick, in Essex. [c] St. Omer.

hase qeffun a man that spredyd the dongke abrood iij or [*sic*] stripes and toke hes forke frome hym albeit I have spoken w^{t} hym and he hes uncurtes in his saying for the sayd Botrell has bene owt of towne unto thys same day and no Syr I schall schew the matter to ye lewtenant and so forth to the consell purpossyd No more to yow at thys tyme but Jhesu kep you. At Calles the xix day of Jenever Anno M^{l} iiij^{c} iiij^{xx} j

Yours to my power
John Dalton.

Addressed: To my interly beluffid brother George Cely merchaunt at the s[tappel o]f no beyng in London in Marke Lane be it don.

74

Jhesu.

By the reference to the recent death of Richard Cely the elder this letter belongs to the year 1482.

Ryght interly beluffyd Broder after all dew recomendacyon I recomaunde me unto yow as hartely as I can or may. Furthermore Syr I have receved ij letters from yow by the wych letters I onderstand of your grett hevenes for your farder on whose sole God have mercy. Furthermore Syr it is so that Gysbreth van Winbragh hayth bene her syn yow departyd and he wylle here agayne he telles me within xiiiij dayes after Candellmes and syeth the xj sarplers cottes woolle of yours on the wych I have taken a gode peny of hym for alsoy syr here came non Holanders syn yow went but won felyschip of Delff the wych I kod seell non flec[es] and no syn we have made bylles of xiij^{s} iiij^{d} on the sarplers the wych must be sent ovyr in to Ynglond and ther payd at plesur your faders byll at plesur amontes unto xv^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} ster: your broder Rychards xliiij^{s} ster: and Wylliam Maryon byll iij^{li} x^{s} viij^{d} ster: Alsoy Syr

syn yt ys soo as it is of my mayster your fayder in the reverence of God take it pacyenly and hurt nott yoursell for that God wyll have done no mane may begense. Alsoy Syr all your felles here don well but ze schall onderstand that we lacke peltes and here is non thow that bene be at xx^{d} a dossene Alsoy Syr syn yow departyd I have bene w^{t} my broder Wylliam Dalton at Bruges and ther I bowgh vi^{c} peltes after iiij^{s} iiij^{d} a lb and lytyll moor the wych ze schall all waye have the ton hallffe of as long as I have ony the wych peltes schalbe here schortely sum of them and betwyxt thys and fast I trow to have a M^{l} peelltes Syr I schall do my best for yow in all maner of theng belongyng unto yow as I wold do for owr broder Wylliam Dalton so helpe me Jhesu. Alsoy Syr I trowe to have of Gysbreth van Wynesbragh xl or l^{li} of Carolles at ys comyng he told me that he wold do ys best to geet them for me at xvj^{d} the pond in case be that yow wyll that I schall send them ovyr to yow or to any oder for yow send me worde and it schalbe don and that I can do for you or maye do in any oder matter. Your horsyn do weell, God save them. Alsoy Syr wheras we ette the good podynges the woman of the hosse that mayd them as I onderstand sche ys w^{t} schylde w^{t} my broder that had the jeyscheskeyne[a] of me Syr all owr howsswold by nam recomaund them unto yow and the bene ryght sore of your hevenes in gud fayth Syr I pray yow that I may be recomaunded unto yowr broder Rychard Cely and ych of yow cheere oder in the reverence of owre Layde who preserve yow. A Calles the xxvij day of Jennar.

Your broder to my poer John Dalton
that I can or may.

Addressed: To my interly beluffid brother Jorge
Cely merchant [of th]e staple of
Calley no beyng [in Lon]don in
Marte Layne.

[a] Perhaps the Flemish *Gezellin*, a female companion.

75

Jhesu

No year or month is mentioned in this letter, but the promise of the buyer of wool to fetch it away within the fourteen days after Candlemas fixes it as written on January 30. The reference to the death of old Richard Cely as recent news, fixes the year as 1482.

Ryghte worshipfull master I recomande me unto yow lattyng yow wyt that I have reseyvyd ij letters that cam frome yow be the whiche wryttyng I onderstond my mayster yowr fader is descesyd on whose sowle God have mercy lattyng yow wyt that your woll & fell ar in good sawte we lak no thyng but onely pelt & fer we can have none her onder xx^{li} d. a dosen if it please yow to send me M^{l} w^{t} next schippyng that comys betwene I wolde pray yow Also your broder Dalton hathe promysyd me M^{c} pelt that he hathe boghte in Flawnders thay be not suffisient Also I lat yow wyt that Bottrell hathe brok up a wyndew of the west syde off your wolhowse & ther he hathe caste in horsse donge upon your sellers I dyd mak a man w^{t} a donge fork in his honde to caste the donge asyde Bottrell cam in & tuk the forke fro hym & bete hym wele & inthryftyle I seynge hes uncurtess delynge I prayd John Ekynton Robert Turney John Ellyrbek & Wylliam Hyll w^{t} moo to breke faste in your chamber for this entent to see the hurtes & harms he dyd yow uppon your goodes that thay myghte beyr record one other day what so ever ye wold sey therto Doyng yow to wyt that ther be no holanderes come unto ther day that ther byll was mayd & than ther cam one cartt. Also I latt yow wyt that your broder Dalton hathe solde xj sarpleres of woll to a mann off Brgges & he hathe mayd promyse to be here w^{t} in xiiij days after candylmess to fet thayme away & he hathe promysid to helpe yow of l^{li} of caruluss grottes for xvj d in ther pownd change [I can no more to yow at thys tyme but][a] Also I lat yow wyt that Charles

[a] The words between the brackets are crossed out.

hathe offyrd viij^{li} flemyshe for Bayerd your horse I have grantyd hym for ix^{li} wharfor I pray yow to send me word how ye wyl be disposid therin also I lat yow wyt ther ye go & ete puddynges the woman is withe child as I onderstond Also I pray ze to purvay yow off cottys for we can have none onder ij^{s} iiij^{d} the rasur and to purvay you bothe of whete vj rasures I can no more to yow but I beseche yow to recomande me to my good maystres your modir to all my maysters your brethyrne & to Hankun & all your howsehold is in savety blissid be Jesu who preserve you bothe body & sowle.

At Calice xxx^{ti} day of

Be your servaunt
Joysse Parmenter.

Addressed: To my ryghte worshipfull mayster
George Seely in Marke Layne in
London thys byll be delyvered in
goodly haste.

76

Rychard Cely the younger

Anno Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}j

Riught whelbelovyd brother I recwmend me wnto yow w^{t} aull my hart informyng you that I hawhe resawyd ij lettyrs frome John Dawltton thay bothe derecttyd to yow wherby I wndyrstond he desyrys to hawhe bohwt for hym iij zeardes of blake pewyke and I hawhe pwrwhayed hyt for hym byt I can gehyt no caryayge tyll Robard Heryke cwm at Estyr Syr thys day I spake w^{t} Bryan and he says at that ys not the bastard swherd at he whowlde havhe hyt ys youre gylte swherd and my loord schambyrlen[a] pwrpos to be at Calles befor Ester and thys day I departte into Cottyswolde wharde

[a] Lord Hastings, afterwards executed by Richard III. He was made Chamberlain of the Exchequer, June 7, 1472, and Master of the Mint and Keeper of the Exchange in the Tower and at Calais, January 8, 1477.

be the grase of Jhesu kepe yow and send ws goode tydynges frome yow. Whryt at London the xxij day of Marche.

per yowr brother
Rychard Cely.

Syr I hawhe bene spokyn to for a whyfe in ij plassys syn ze departtyd whon whos be the Prayfayrs as schawll wryt to yow mor playne in my next letter.

Addressed: A my whelbelowyd brother George
Cely merchand of the stapell beyng
at Calles thys dd.

77

Rychard Cely the younger

Anno Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]iiij[xx]ij

Riught whell belovyd brother I recomende me unto yow as lowyngly as I con or may informyng yow that the xxviij day of Marche I ressawyd a letter frome yow whryt at Calles the Twysday after howr departtyng qwher by I ondyrstonde ze be howyr in safette thankyd be God and ze fynde aull thynges acordyng to yowr intent and as for Thomas Kesten ys letter ys delyvyrd and as for all thynges in Essex I schawll do for yow as I do for my nowyn Syr I wndyrstonde be Wylliam Celys letter that aull owr Cottes wholl ys sowlde in Calles hyt ys goode tydynges I pray God sende ws sum sall of howr fellez I hawhe beyn at Abynton syn I whrat my laste letter and spake w[t] Wylliam Bretten and he myte go no fardar w[t] me for packyng of Lombardes wholl at Hamton the qwheche muste departe into Gean[a] at thys Ester in the Kynges schypys and he has promysyd to met w[t] me at Norlache[b] on Low Sonday Syr I pray yow sende me a letter schorttely how I schawll be demenyd in anssor to Wylliam Mydwyntter of hys fellys for and ze make any salle hyt wylbe whysdom to be sewyr of mo heyr ys Wylliam Dawlton now and I thynke heff

[a] Genoa. [b] Northleach.

he hawhe any wente at Calles hyt wyll cawse hym do the lese w^t^ yow. Syr heyr has beyn John Croke of the Tempyll w^t^ howr mother and informyd her that he hard the exchetter of Essex say that he moste go into Essex to sit in an enqwery of howr londys qwhether howre father dyed sesyd in hys lond or qwhethyr whe be of lawfull ayge and of home howrlonde ys howlldyn and zestyrday I whente to master Molenars and bare w^t^ me the laste made deyde of Brettes and yowr laste madedys of L. Malyns[a] and whe schewyd hym that the londe stode in fefes handes and hyt whos informyd hym that Malyns whos holdyn of the Kyng and aull londe howldyn of the Kyng schulde be exchettyd for the Kyng tyll the hayre has made hys fyne w^t^ the Kyng byt whe hafe no londe that holldes of the Kynge be the awyse of master Molenars I gawhe the exchetter xl^s^ for ws bothe and so whe be thorow w^t^ hym for aull matters and parellys byt I mowste brynge hym at laysar a byll of the day a the dysses of owr fathe owr ayge and of home owr londe ys howldyn at he may set hyt in the Kynges bokys and on the xxvij day whos Byfelde berryd and on the morow herby hys whyfe toke the mantell and the rynge and at aftyrnoyn the same day whos the grehyt new gone of brasse shott at Mylezeynde[b] at whos mad in the Towyr and hyt braste awll to pessys Syr I hawhe lettyrs fromy lorde wryte in Napwlles byt I red them not zeyt whane I se them I schawll whryte to yow of syche thynges as ys in them be the grasse of Jhesu ho kepe yow. Wrytte at London the xxix day of Marche.

per yowr brother
Rychard Cely.

Addressed: A my whell belovyd brother George Cely marchand of the stapell beyng at Callez so thys dd.

[a] Perhaps this is Little Molands, in South Ockendon, near Alveley, part of the Manor of Groves, held of the Honour of Tutbury, which was itself part of the Duchy of Lancaster. It might be argued that it was not held of the King, that is, of the Crown, though the King held the Duchy of Lancaster. Bretts was, at the death of the younger Richard, held of the Lady de Inglesthorpe.

[b] Mile End.

78

Anno Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Riught whell belovyd brother y recomend me wnto yow as hartte hart [*sic*] con thynk informeyng you that I hawhe resavyd a letter from yow whryt at Callys the xxvij day of Marche wherby I wndersto of yor salle w^{t} many hother thynges and ze schawll resave of Wylliam Dawltom iij zeardes pewyke for howr brother John Dawltton and as for fellez I troste whe schawll have as good as any schawll com howt of Cottyswold for as ze whryte to me wholl wyll be skante I pwrpos to ryde into Cottysowld on Tewysday in the Ester wheke for to pake now whyll I am awhryttyng of thys letter Wylliam Mydwyttyrs mane ys com to fet mony and I pwyrte my tyme w^{t} hym as for tydynges frome my lorde I sende you my lordes letter and an letter frome Syr Wylliam directyd to yow and I send yow the copy of my lords byll that he made me closyd yn thys and hystyr day the inbaseturs of Frawns[a] wher ressavyd in to London and thys day I depart into Essex Whettyn in haste at London the sekunde day of Aprell.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To my ruight whelbelovyd brother George Cely merchant of the stapell beyng at Callez.

On the Dorse: ij^{c}xxxvj^{li}
xxxvj^{li}
xviij^{li}

79

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Ryght Reverent Syr and my specyall good frende I recommaund me unto yow Ferder mor and yt plesse yow ye schall

[a] This seems to be the Embassy which arranged the Treaty of 1482, the last successful attempt by Louis to keep Edward quiet (see Introduction).

understonde that I have resseyved a letter from you wreten at Calles the xxviij day of Marche the wyche letter y have well understonde that ye have sowlld unto Henry c packe unto Jacob Tymanson and hys feleschype of Laythe [a] xxiij c of my new somer fellys London for xvj noblis halffe le c Argent clxiiij^{li} ix^{s} fl. werof ye have ressayved in hand and schall ressayve at thys next martt iiij^{xx} ij^{li} ix^{s} fl. and the xxvj day of September next xlj^{li} fl. and the xxvj day of Marche the rest xlj^{li} fl. and so Syr I understonde ther remayng behynd wheche be mad and fore brent ij c xxv felles the wyche ye woll do yowre best to put away wyt yowre felles for the wyche Syr I thanke yow hartley also Syr I understond that y schall leyesse cler of my brent felles the wyche woll never be mad sum. cxxxij felles. Syr I thanke Good as the casse requered that I lesse no mo also syr I understond that a lytell befor yowre comyng to Calles John Dallton had found all myn hoder fellys the wyche y had in Calles for the wyche Syr y thankt yow and hem bothe harttely and y pray to God that I may deserved ayenst yow for God sent you now lokeley to Calles for to do so sone so grett a fette as ye have don set ye cam to Calles thanked be God Syr yowre broder Rechard Cely a ij dayes afor owre Lady Day he wasse at Habendon [b] and wayted upon Wylliam Breten for to goo unto Norlagh [c] but Wylliam Breten myt nat atendyt and in that men tym com Wylliam Medwenter to London and so non of hem spake wyt hoder and so Rychard Cely porpossed be the leffe of God for to reyde into Cotyswold ward upon Wedynysday or on Thorysday in Hester weke. I pray to God be hys sped Syr upon Palm Sonday the Frensche imbaset com in to London and they war worschyppefullley ressayved wyt the mayher and all the craftys of London Also Syr ye schall understond that my mayesterys yowre moder ys in good hell so ressonabelay and wext all strong as of a woman of har age thanked be Good and sche recommaund her unto you and sendyt unto you God ys blessyng and harys Also Syr ye schall understond that

[a] Leyden. [b] Abingdon. [c] Northleach.

all the hooll houssould faryt well thanked be God No more unto you at thys tym but the Trenyte have you in hys kepyng Wreten at London the ij day of Aprell.

Be youre owne
Wylliam Maryon.

Addressed: Unto George Cely marchant of the stapull at Calles thys letter be delyverd.

On the Dorse in a different handwriting:
Thes ben lettyrs. Anno M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}j & ij

80

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Riught interly belovyd brother I recomend me harttely unto yow & informyng yow that I hawhe ressayvyd an letter frowme yew wherby I wnderstonde the dethe of my yowge lady of Borgen [a] and of the treson at Sent Tomers [b] I pray God kepe hyt and sawhe Flawndyrs I wndyrstonde be a letter that cam to me frome Wylliam Cely nowht that ze hawhe sowlde vjM^{l} vjc d. of Cottysowlde fellys and thay ar in to Hollonde in safete as he whryttes to me thankyd be Jhesu and as for tydynges I can none wrytte the kynge the qwehyn and the prynse lyes at Eltam and I pwrpos to departe into Cottysowlde the ix day of thys monthe and the xj day I wndyrstond ze pwrpose to Bregys whard the holy Trenyte sped ws bothe and I pray yow thynke apone howr bowys for I hawhe brokyn the bastard bow that ze lefte heyr as I zeyde to Hawelay [c] whard and Louttelay and Lasse has beyn at your plasse Malyns [d] mendyd your hege hevery letter that I ressaive

[a] The Duchess Mary of Burgundy. [b] St. Omer, betrayed to the French, 14 2.
[c] Alveley.
[d] Little Molands. A word has apparently been dropped.

frome yow ys to me a grehyt cwmfortte wryte at London the viij day of Aprell.

per your brother
Rychard Cely.

Addressed: my riught whell belowyd brother George Cely merchand of the stapwll at Calleys so dd.

81

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iij^{xx}ij

Ryght reverent Syr and my specyall frende I recommend me unto you. Ferder mor and yt plese you ye schall understonde that y have ressayved a letter from you wreten at Calles the xxviij daye of Marsche leyke af y wreten unto yow in my last letters that y well understonde that ye have sould all my fellys at Calles safying ijc xxv felles for the whyche salys Syr y thanke yow harteley & also Syr y pray you that ye woll delyver unto Robard Eryk xxx or xl^{li} ster: lyke af ye and he can agre and as ye do wyth oder men for lyke if ye do hould me greyd both in mony and in dayes saffying he hitt promysed me x^{li} her in hand at my plesser and therfor I wold that he had the lengar day of the rest they yt be mehellmas day and as for yowre broder Rechard Cely ye schall understond that he ys at hys plasse in Hessexe for he wos y porposed for to abe at thys day in Cottyswold safyng Wylliam Breton sent hem word fro Hamton that he myt nat attend unto hem Nat Tyell ys be xiiij dayes after Ester and be that day yowre broder porposed be the leve of God to be at Nortlache[a] an at that day Wylliam Breten hat y promesed therfor to met hem also ye shall understond that my misterys yowre moder ys in good hell thanked be God savyng her leghe ys not yt all holl but y trust to God yt stondyd in good casse Syr sche

[a] Northleach.

recommaunds har unto you and sche sends you God ys blessyng and harys and so sche doyt in good fayyt every day seyt ye departed yowre broder Robard and all the houssould faryt well thanked be God. Wreten at London the xiiij day of Aperell, &c.

Be youre owne
Wylliam Maryon.

Addressed: Unto George Cely marchant of the stapull at Calles thys letter be delyverde.

On the Dorse, in a different handwriting:

Logyd at the howyse in Barow.

Of Claysse Peterson and his fellows.

iiij^{d} ob	xxj^{li} flemish.
iiij^{d} ob	xiij^{li} xv^{s} flemish.
xxxiiij lewis vij^{s}	xj^{li} xviij^{s} fl.
x andreus iiij^{s} viij^{d}	ix^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} fl.
xxvj new crouns v^{s} viij^{d} . . .	vij^{li} vij^{s} iiij^{d} fl.
xxj owlld crouns v^{s} vj^{d} . . .	v^{li} xv^{s} vj^{d}
xxx postlates ij^{s} viij^{d}	iv^{li} iij^{d} fl.
Summa . .	lxxij^{li} xvij^{s} ix^{d} fl.

iiij^{d} ob	v^{li} v^{s} fl.
ij^{d} q^{s}	ij^{li} xiv^{s} fl.
ix lewys vij	iij^{li} iij^{s} fl.
iiij^{d}	vj^{li} fl.
xix crownys vij	iij^{li} ij^{s} fl.
iij crownys v^{s} vj^{d}	xvj^{li}
vij andres iiij^{s} viij^{d}	xxxij^{s} viij^{d} fl.
iiij rydars iiij^{s} x^{d}	xv^{s} iiij^{d} fl.
an rynyshe gylden	iiij^{s} vj^{d} fl.

ij^{d} q^{a}	v^{li} fl.
iij postlates	viij^{s} fl.
xij hettinus (?) iiij^{s} ij^{d} . . .	ij^{li} xv^{s} fl.
in pensse	x^{s} fl.
iiij^{d} ob	vij^{li} xix^{s} fl.
Summa . .	xl^{li} xij^{d} fl.
ij^{d} q^{a}	xxj^{s} fl.
xxxj rydars gyll iiij^{s} x^{d} . . .	le plese v^{li} xviij^{s} x^{d} fl.
in whyght mony	xvij^{li} fl.
Summa . .	vij^{li} xv^{d} fl.
Summa totallis	cxx^{li} fl.

82

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}lxxxij the xviij day of Aprell in London

Right reverent & worschopfull Ser I recommawnd me unto you w^{t} all my hart desyryng to heer of your welfare the wheche I beseche God to preserve to his blessud plesure & to your most preffyt both of body & soulle. Ser yf hyt plessith yow to wete that my mastras your moder & my maysters both your bredurn my emer Wylliam Maryen & all your houssold faryn well & my mastres is in gud heell thankyd be Jhesu & mery, God kepe her long soo. Also Ser pleseth hyt yow to wyt that my emer & I be agreed that I schold have xl li that schold be delyvyrd by yow. Ser hit is so that I perposed to a byn w^{t} yow in the esterne weke but in treuth I have a let that hath kaused me to tere & zyt I have not done but Ser I perpose to be at Brygges mart yf I may & els I prey yow that hyt may be redy when I come fer I tryste to have hyt redy as my em tellyth me when so I come I had leve to have hyt at Brygges or at Barow than at Cales yf hyt plese yow

to provyde so for me. Also Ser I prey yow to be my gud godfader in the mater that spake unto and I wyll evyr do yow servys in eny thyng that I can by the grace of God who have yow in his blessud kepyng. Wryttyn in hast.

By your owne
Robert Eyryk.

Addressed: To my right reverent & trysty frend
Jorge Cely marchante of the staple
be this letter delyveryd in Calles
At Brygges or at Barow Mart.

In George Cely's hand:
Nihil for the xl^{li} of Robert Erykkes.

83

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}lxxxij the xx day of Aprell in London

Ryght reverent and worschopfull Sur I recommaund me unto [*sic*] w^{t} all my hart desyryng to heer of youre welfare the whech I beseche Jhesus long to preserve and kepe also Ser lettyng yow wet that at the makyng of this letter my mastras your moder & my masters your brodurs & all your houssold faren well blessid be God Also sen my emer Wylliam Maryon & I be agreed as for xl^{li} that I schuld kep of yow the whech I prey yow yf that ze com home or I com that hyt may be left at Bruges or at syche a place as I may hawe hyt redy when I come or els w^{t} Wylliam Cely at Cales Sir in treuth I porposed to abe w^{t} yow in Esture weke but I hawe suche a lettyng that I can nott com zyt but odur I wyll be at Bruges mart or else at Synksen betymes by the grase of God who have yow in his blessid kepyng Wrytten in haste.

Ser yf hyt wold plese yow to send me word in a lyttyll byll by Thomas Clarke that was my broder Richards man wher that I schall kep hit I pray yow hartly for I trowe he wyll come sone hastely.

By yowr owne Robert Eyryk.

Addressed: Unto my right reverent & worschopfull George Cely merchaunt of the stapull beyng in the howeyse at Barow.

84

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Ryght wurshyppffull Syr afftyr dew recommendaschon I lowly recommend me unto yowre masterschypp &c. Plese hit yowre masterschypp to understond that John Dalton and I have spoken to master lefftenaunte for payment of yowre warranttes and he sayth we schall have payment w^{t} yn v or vj days but he sayth we can nott hawe all at thys tyme and we desyryd to hawe them there sett upon yowre bylles of costom and subsede and he sayth hit may nott be for ther be moo soo don than may be perfformed for the whych they shall bryng yn sterlyng mony yn to the collectors agayn and hawe her payment owte of the tressery &c. Syr plese hit yow to wytt her be many Hollonders butt they bye noo noder felles of [*sic*] but London and contrey felles and as for woll I can sell her non w^{t} owte I hadd olde wull for they can hawe no olde wull but where they bye new wull &c. Syr I hawe receyvyd noo letters owte of Ynglonde syn yow departyd but I hawe sent yn to Ynglond at every passage &c. Syr Bayarde yowre horse doyth well and so doyth yowre toder horse at Twysulttons too and I here no body that makys any do for hym Joysse wold fayne have hym home yn to hys stabull. I pray yow send us worde how we schall be demenyd w^{t} hym &c. Syr oder tydynges hawe we non here but

I pray almyghty Jhesu kepe yow Wrytten at Calys the xxiij day of Apryll

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my wurshyppffull master George
Cely merchaunte of the stappell off
Caleys he beyng at the martt at
Barrowe be this delyverd.

85

Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]iiij[xx]ij

Ryght wurshyppffull Syr affter dew recommendaschon I lowly recommend me unto yowre masterschypp. Further more plese hit yowre masterschypp to understonde ther ys bonde unto thys letter serteyn letters selyd that come from my lord of Sent Jonys[a] but oder letters owte of Ynglonde hawe I receyved non syn youre masterschypp departyd from Calys &c. Syr plese hit yow to wytt that yowre horss ys be all yn gode pwoynte and Bayarde ys all hole of hys maledy and he was newer better to labor than he ys now &c. Syr Joysse prayes yow to send hym worde when ze thyncke ze schall be redy to com to Calys that he myght send yow lyccwll[b] Bayarde to come home on &c. Syr we have tydynges yn Calys that my lorde chamberleyn[c] ys at Dower and they loke afftyr hym at Calys at every tyde &c. Syr all thynges at Calys doys well thanckyd be Godd Syr oder tydynges hawe we non but Jhesu kepe you. Wrytten at Calys the xxix day of Apryll.

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppffull master George
Cely merchaunt off the stappell off
Calys being at the martte.
Soo hit dd.

[a] Sir John Weston. [b] *Sic.* Perhaps *little.* [c] Lord Hastings.

86

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Ryght worshyppffull Syr Afftyr dew recommendaschon I lowly recommend me unto yowre masterschypp &c. Plese hit yowre masterschypp to understond that master lefftenaunte hath had commynecaschon w^{t} my lordd Chamberleyn and w^{t} the Kynges Counsell for the payment of thys hallff zerys wagys and they demaundyd all starlyng money[a] to be payd at Calys but master lefftenaunte and the fellyschypp at Calys hath greyd w^{t} my lorde and the Kynges counsell and be fully concludyd apon the same that they schall paye for thys hallff zerys wagys the ton hallff sterlyng money yn Ynglond to be payd the last day of Jule and the toder hallff to be payd at Calys be mydsomer yn Flemysche money att xxvj^{s} v[iij^{d} fl.] the pownde and soo for to send bylles ower yn to Ynglonde of the ton hallff but he that hath sterlyng money here and wyll paye hit here hit schall be deductyd of hys byll yn Ynlond &c. Syr my master lefftenaunte says he fynd my lordd hys godd and gracis lordd for the stappell &c. Item Syr master Debyte reported yow to master lefftenaunte affore my lordd chamberleyn that ther was a dewte of sterlyng money betwyxte pore Henley and yow and he says ze wold receyve no money of hym benethe xxviij^{s} the pownde ster: &c. Item Syr as for yowre gode detters here I can receyve no money of hem zett they ascuse hem that I must tarry tyll they be payd of her wages &c. Item Syr John Dulcon hath ben at a feyr yn Flaunders and he hath bowght hym a feyr yong horsse and he standys yn yowre stabull &c. Item Syr all yowre horsse be yn goode state thanckyd be God who hath yow yn his kepyng. Wrytten at Calys the v day of Maye.

per youre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

[a] As formerly arranged. See Letter of May 8, 1478.

Addressed: To my worshyppffull master George
Cely merchaunte off the stappell
off Caleys he beyng at the martt
Soo hit dd.

87

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

The negotiation between the King and the Fellowship of the Staplers, recorded in this letter, illustrates the possibility of what really amounted to extra-parliamentary grants through a chartered company. The King was anticipating the payment. See also Letter of August 20, 1482.

Ryght worshypfull Syr afftyr dew recommed[aschon] . . . . . masterschypp & further more plese hit yowre . . . . I hawe receyved a letter from yow whych . . . . well understond and as towchyng zowre . . . . schall endewer me to hym acordyng to yowre letter . . . . Item Syr I understondd that yowre masterschypp wold [th]at John Dalton schuld bye the horsse that he wrote to yow off Syr he hath bowght won as on Sint Telen Day [a] besyde Odenborow [b] at a fayer and he standys yn yowre stabull hys color ys maner of a grey coler and he ys but yong for he was new broken yett and he ys almoste as moche as yowre grett Bayardd &c. Item Syr hytt ys grauntyd to the Kyng be the fellyschypp at London vj thowsand marke for hys syrplysage and upon that the lefftenaunte and the fellyschypp here hath agreyd as be an asemble the vj day of Maye that all the woll and felles that schall be schyppyd at London at thys nexte schyppyng schall be kockyttyd yn affore the vj day of Aprell last past and hit schall paye the costom yn Ynglonde at syche days as they can gett of the Kynge and takyn to the payment of the sayd syrplysage and that that ys schyppyd more than the syrplysage schall be cokettyd yn aftyr the xj day of Apryll last past and pay nott tyll hit com to Calys

[a] Not any of the recognised St. Helen's days, but the day of the Invention of the Cross, May 3.

[b] Oudenburg, on the coast between Nieuport and Bruges.

and all the woll and felles that ys schyppyd at all oder porttes schall paye nothyng tyll hit come to Calys noder and all that schall ryn to the payment of the nexte hallffe yerys wagys &c. Item Syr hit was agreyd that thys hallfe yerys wagys schold abe payd hallff yn Ynglonde sterlyng money be the last day of Jule and the toder hallff at Calys be mydsomer yn Flemische money at xxvj^{s} viij^{d} le pownde Syr now I understonde we muste paye all here be Whyttsontyde at xxvj^{s} viij^{d} the pownde for the sowdeers hath lewer to be payd here at xxvj^{s} viij^{d} than hawe yn Yngland sterlyng money for they mystruste her payment there &c. Syr oder tydynges hawe we none here but Jhesu kepe yow. Wrytten at Calys the vij day of Maye.

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppfull master George
Cely merchaunte off the stappell
off Caleys he beynge at the Martt
soo hitt dd.

On the Dorse:

From Andwhurp
And at Andwhurp
At And. . . . x^{s} viij^{d}
At Gent so . . v^{s} iij^{d}
And abatid v^{d}
yow at delyv[ery] } iiij^{s} x^{d} fl.
leyd owght per me G. C.

88

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Ryght worshyppfull Syr afftyr dew recomendaschon I lowly recommend me unto yowre masterschypp &c Syr plese hyt yowre masterschypp to understond that John Dalton and I hawe

spoken many tymes unto master lefftenaunte for payment of yowre warrantes of xv^{s} of the pownd and he hath drewen us off many tymes and dessyryd us to forbere but vj or vij days and we schulde have payment but as on the x day of thys month we spake to hym agayn and dessyred hym that we myght hawe payment of them or elles that they myght be sett uppon yowre bylles of costom and subsede and he dessyryd us to tarry tyll ye come and than they schall be sett upon yowre bylles of costom and subsede &c. Syr as for yowre horsse that Twyssulton hath I wolde a hadd hym home to yowre stabull but Joysse says hit yss nott best soo to do tyll ye come for he says John Dalton wyll myssedeme tham and take hit att a grett onkyndness &c Syr I pray yow send me wordde how I schall demenyd w^{t} hym &c Syr Joysse prays yow to send hym worde when he schall send yow yowre horsse to come home on &c Syr no more unto yowre masterschypp at thys tyme but Almyghty Jhesu hath yow yn hys kepyng Wrytten at Caleys the x day of Maye

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppffull master George
Cely merchaunte of the stapell off
Caleys he being att the martt
soo it dd:

89

Rychard Cely the younger

Anno Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Ruight interly whelbelovyd brothe I recomende me harttely unto yow informing yow at the makyng of thys howr mother brother my godfather and the howsowlde ar in goode heyll thankyd be the good Loorde Syr the same day that I departtyd into Cottesowlde I ressayvyd a letter frome yow wryte at Calles the

xiiij day of Aprell wher in I fynde the inuiatory of syche godes that whos howr fathers and mony on that syd of the see Syr I spake not wyth the byschopys ofesars syn that I ressayvyd yowr letter when I spake laste w^t^ them thay sayd that awlthynges schulde abyd yowr cwmyng I wndyrstonde be your letter that ze wyll make howyr abowe vc^li^ I hawhe beyn in Cottysowllde thys iij whekys and packyd w^t^ Wylliam Mydwyntter xxij sarplers and a poke whereof be iiij mydyll Wylliam Bretten saye hyt ys the fayreste woll that he saw thys zeyr and I packyd iiij sarplers at Camden of the same bargeyn wher ar ij good ij mydyll ther wylbe in aull w^t^ blottes apon xxvij or xxviij sarplers wholl. Syr I cannot hawhe Wylliam Mydwynttyrs fellys undyr iij^li^ xl^d^ the c. and I schaull [hawhe them I] [a] go to that pryse I pray yow send me a letter schorttely Syr I hawhe bohyt in Cottysowlde apon the poynt of vij^M^ resenabyll good fellz and I pay iij^li^ I can gehet noyn undyr Syr I whryte to yow a prosses I pray God send ther of a good heynd the same day that I come to Norlache [b] on a Sonday befor mattens frome Kurforde [c] Wylliam Mydwyntter wyllecwmyd me and in howr comynycacyon he askyd me hefe I wher in any whay of maryayge I towlde hyme nay and he informeyd me that ther whos a zeunge genttyll whoman hos father ys name ys Lemryke and her mother ys deyd and sche schaull dispend be her moter xl^li^ a ze as thay say in that contre and her father ys the gretteste rewlar as rycheste mane in that conttre and ther hawhe bene grete genttyllmen to seyr and wholde hawhe her and hewyr matens wher done Wylliam Mydwynter had mevyd thys mater to the gretteste mane a bot the gentylman Lemeryke and he zeyd and informyd the forsayd of aull the matter and the zewng gentyll woman bothe and the Sattyrday aftyr Wylliam Mydwyntter whent to London as aull wholl getherars wher sent for be wryt be the men of Pettyt for in wynde and grete markyng and thay hawhe day to cwm [agen] at Myhellmas. When I had packyd at Camden and Wylliam Mydwyntter parttyd I came to

[a] Crossed out. [b] Northleach. [c] Perhaps Burford.

Norlache ageyn to make a nende of packyng and on Sonday nexte aftyr the same mane that Wylliam Mydwyntter brake fyrste to cam me and telde me that he had brokyn to hys master acordyng as Mydwyntter desyryde hym and he sayd hys master whos ryght [we]ll plesyde ther whothe and the same mane sayd to me hefe I whowllde tary May day I schulde hawhe a syte of the zeunge gentyllwhoman and I sayd I wholld tary w^t^ a good wyll and the same day her father schul a syttyn at Norlache for the Kyng byt he sent whon of hys clarkys and rod hymselfe to Wynchecwme [a] and to mattens the same day come the zewnge gentyll whoman and her mother i law and I and Wylliam Bretten wher seyng mattens when thay com in to chyrche and when mattens whos done thay whente to a kynnys whoman of the zewnge gentty woman and I sent to them a pottell of whyte romnay and thay toke hyt thankefully for thay had cwm a myle a fote that monyng and when mes whos done I come and whellcwmyd them and kyssyd them and they thankyd me for the whyne and prayd me to cwm to dyner w^t^ them and I ascwysyd me and they made me promys to drynke w^t^ them after dyner and I sent them to dyner a galon whyne and thay sent me a heron sew roste and aftyr dyner I cwm and dranke w^t^ them and toke Wylliam Bretten w^t^ me and whe had ryught gode comynecacyon and the person plesetheyde me whell as be the fyrste comenycacyon sche ys zewnge lytyll and whery whellfavyrd and whytty and the contre spekys myche gode by hyr. Syr aull thys matter abydythe the cwmyng of her father to London that whe may wndyrstonde what some he wyll departe w^t^ and how he lykys me he wyll be heyr w^t^in iij whekes I pray send me a letter how ze thynke be thys matter Heyr has beyn whyt my mother Myhell Koke and hys whyfe from Zeorke [b] and my mother and I hawhe made them gret scheyr and my mother has gewyn to Myhellz wyfe a cremsyn goune of hyr wheryng and sche has prayd me to whrayt to yow to by for her a for of callo . . . for to lay in the same gowne and hys Kokys whyfe and sche prays yow to by

[a] Winchcombe, in Gloucestershire. [b] York.

for them x as fyne mynkes as ze can fynde in the marte and ze schawl be plesyd for them I schawll send to Calles be Robard Heryke at thys Whyttisontyd the byll of xiij^{s} iiij^{d} hyt amwntys to xv^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} and payde I undyrstonde be Wylliam [Celys] letter that ze hawe whryttyng frome my lorde of Sent Jonys[a] I pray yow send me partte of your tydyng I sent to yow the laste that I had Syr thay hawhe begwn to schype at London and aull howr wholl and fell ys hyt in Cottysowlde sawhe iiij sarplers therfor whe can do nothyng at thys tyme. Syr I thynke mony wyll be gode at thys marte for the Kyng has sente to the mercars and lette them what that he wylle hawe iij whystylles[b] whon at Bregys another at Callez the thyrd at London and as I am informyd what merchand of the stapell that fellys hys whe he may by what whar that he wyll ageyn and thay that by nowhar schaull brynge in ther mony into the Kynges wystyll at Bregys ar Calles and be payd at London at a monythe day and the mony schawlbe stablyschyd at viij^{s} the mercars be not conttent therw^{t}. I pray yow remembyr howyr bowys. No mor. Wrhyt at London the xiij day of May.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: To my riught whellbelovyd George Cely merchand of the Stapell at Calleys or at the Marte be thys dd.

On the Dorse: Billes and letteres of Anno M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij super viset.

90

Rychard Cely the younger

Anno Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Riught interly belovydwyd brother I recomend me wnto yow w^{t} aull myne harte informeyng yow that I hawhe ressavyd an

[a] Sir John Weston.

[b] Wissel, in Flemish, 'An exchange for money.' See November 5, 1481.

letter frome yow whryttyn at Barow the wheche I do whell undyrston and as for wholl and fell loke aftyr noyn of howrs at thys schypyng for whe hawhe not cwm to London byt vj sarpllers frome Kynges Sotton[a] and not a fell I hawhe bohut at Chepyng Nortton vjM^{l} fellz iij^{ll} le c I hawhe caste them and I fynd them resnabyll good I cannot deyll w^{t} Wylliam Mydwyntter wnd[er] iij^{ll} iij^{s} iiij^{d} he has apon iiij M^{l} I pray yow send me whorde how I schawll be demenyd howr mother longys sor for yow Wylliam Cely wrat that whe be lyke to hawhe whar w^{t} Frawns and that makys hyr ferde. Syr Hary Bryan the bryngar of thys laburs me soor to goo and se Rawson[s] dowttyr I am beheldyng to hym for hys labur for I know whell that he whowlde I dyd whell and I pray yow delyver hym som mony at thys tyme and do whelby hym for hyt ys seuyr I know I hawhe many thyngs in my mynde byt I hawhe ne laysar to whrytte ze may wndyrstond partte be my letter that I sente yow befor thys. Syr I wndyrstonde as I ryd in the cwnttray many thynges whone ys that howr brother Wylliam Dawltton schaull be maryd[b] to whon of the nexte kynys whoman that Kyrstower Brown has Syr I hawhe sowlde Py I kon not get for hym byt v marke on my faythe and zehyt he that has hym thynkeys hymselfe full begyllyd I pray yow harttely sped yow into Yngelonde for many thynge abydes yow cwmyng I have whorkmene a settyng in Berwyke[c] parke abouhe xij M^{l} stakys. No mor. Whryttyn at London the xxiij day of May.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: A my riught whell belovyd brother George Cely merchand of the stapell beyng at Callez or at Bregys so dd.

Nota.—Autoritate & racione huius littere Georgius Cely deliberavit Henrico Bryan L*li* fl ut patet per literam xxxviij^{va} de quibus Richardus Cely est responsurus.

[a] Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire.

[b] William Dalton was perhaps a widower.

[c] Berwick, a hamlet of Rainham, Essex, which belonged to the Hospitallers.

91

Rychard Cely the younger

Anno Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]iiij[xx]ij

Riught whelbelovyd brother I recomend me harttely unto yow informyng yow that I hawhe resavyd an letter frome yow be Robard Heryke wherby I wndyrstond that ze wyll send owyr an zewnge horsse whe schaull kepe hym w[t] grasse a whell as whe can tyll ze cwm acordyng to yowr whryttyng Syr hyt whos tellyd Robard Heryke at Calles that howr mother schowlde be maryd or in the whay of maryayge into so myche that thay sayd howr mother schulld go on preschesyon on Corpys Kyrste day [a] in a cremsyn gown and hyr mayny in blake and a my sowyll howr mother whe[nt] at that day byt as sche whent at owr fathers monthys mynd and therfor I whowlde hyt wher tryd howt the bryngar of that to Calles Syr whe ar grehtly enoyd I trwste Jhesu whe schaull be abbull to wythstonde owr enmys Syr John ys in grehyt trobull [b] and God knowys full whrongefowlly and parte of them that whe gawhe gownys to [c] labors moste agayne hym I had lever then a good med that ze whor heyr. No mor to yow. Whryt at London the xxiiij day of Juyn I pray Jhesu send yow safe hythyr and sone Robard Eryke whos schasyd w[t] Scottes betwheyn Callez and Dover thy schapyd narow.

per Rychard Cely.

Addressed: A my riught whell belovyd brother
George Cely merchand of the
stapell at Callez so it dd:

[a] Thursday after Trinity Sunday. In 1482 it was June 6.

[b] Perhaps for the failure of his embassy in the previous year; but it does not appear why, certainly.

[c] A sort of bribery apparently, evidently of influential persons.

92

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Ryght worshyppffull Syr afftyr dew recomendaschon I lowly recomend me unto yowre masterschypp Forther more plese hit yowre masterschypp to understond that I hawe receyved an letter from yowre masterschypp the whych I have redd and well understonde and as for tydynges here we have non but gode yett but that we loke afftyr the Kyng at Dower schorttly and my Lordd Chamberleyn lokyth all wey when he schall be sent for. Furder mor Syr plese hytt yow to understond that I hawe soled all yowre felles that leye in the howse nexte Bondmans to master John Johnson and hys fellowys of Dellff[a] f[or] xiiij nobulles the c. and hallfe redy mony in honde the rest at Colde martt and passce nexte ensewyng they be nott yett delyverd Syr they desyre to borrow x or xij^{li} therof tyll Balyng martt but I wolde nott graunte hem but I sayd thys unto them I lokyd aftyr yow w^{t} in ij or iij days and yff yow wold do so myche for them as to graunte hem that I was content or elles I wold hawe the hole ton halffe at Callys &c. Item Syr I hawe receyved yowre gere of John Wyxstons man all sawe an towell whych John Dalton tellyth me that master John Wyxston hadd nott but he hath hit hymsellffe and wyll delyver hit. Syr as for youre lyve lode ys nott yett cleryd but the warddysman hath sen yowre lyve lodd and entyd hit in her bokes and w^{t} in thys ij days yowre evydensse most be schewyd affore the comyschoners I hawe them styll by me for John Parker praye me soo for to do for he sayd hit was so best and most redyest for when they come to that warde they schall be send for &c. No more unto yowre masterschyp at

[a] Delft.

thys tyme but Jhesu kepe yow Wrytten at Calles the iiij day of Julle.

per youre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppffull master George
Cely merchaunte of the Stappell
off Caleys beyng at Bregesso it dd:

93

Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]iiij[xx]ij

Ryght worshyppffull Syrs After dew recommendaschon I lowly recommend me unto yowr masterschyppis. Furder more plese hyt yowre masterschyppis to understond of syche tydynges as we hawe here at Calys hytt ys so that the town of Ary[a] ys geven up to the Frensche men and anoder castell w[t] in a dowche myle off Sent Thomers[b] be the menys of treson acordyng as hit specyfyeth in my toder letter and the Frensche men purposyth to be at Gravenyng[c] and they be nott lettyd w[t] in thys ij days and lesse and ther comys every day from Sent Thomers to my Lord Chamberleyn[d] help and rescew owte of Ynglond and my lord hath promysyd hem that they schall lacke no men nor vettell wherfor we loke afftyr here that ther schall com a fellyschypp owte of Ynglond schorttly &c. Item Syr w[c] fere here that ther well be schrode passage to thys Balling martt and yff the Frensche men hawe Gravenyng as men fere they schall hawe hytt for they hawe all the passaygys to hit redy &c. No more unto yowre masterschypp at thys tyme but Jhesu kepe yow and all owre frenddes Wrytten at Callez the last day of Jowll.

yowr servaunt
Wylliam Cely.

[a] Aire. [b] St. Omer. [c] Gra lines. [d] Lord Hastings.

Addressed: To my worschyppffull master Rechard
or George Cely merchauntes of
the [stapell] of Callez at London
yn Martt Lane so hit dd.

94

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Ryght worshyppffull Syr afftyr dew recommendaschon I lowly recommend me unto yowre masterschypp Furder more plese hytt yowre masterschypp to understond that I hawe told all yowre felles that remayned yn Callez [thys de][a] yowre departyng from Calles and ther ys of hem ij M^{l} iij^{c} xij felles yn all wherof schuld be lx felles off my godfaders Wylliam Maryons as he wrote unto me and of yowres ther be ij M^{l} ij^{c} lij felles and so hit comyth even owte w^{t} yowre boke here wherfor I pray owre masterschypp to refforme the som of the felles in the endenter &c Item Syr plese ytt yow to wytt that yowre yonge horsse ys sore apayard syns yowre masterschypp departyd from Calles for he wull ete noo mete yett but grasse and grene tarys for hardd mette he wyll non and he ys but bare yn plyght I can nott thynke that hee may be laboryd schorttly but grett sorell ys in good plyght God sawe hym but I suppose he wyll not be solde here &c Item Syr plese hytt yowre masterschypp to understondd that I hawe nott receyved yowre poll axe whych shulde come from Brege nott yett I askydd Wylliam Dalton of hytt at hys comyng home and he tellyd me hyt was not comen to Bregys all the whyle he wus there &c Syr oder tydynges hawe we non here but that the Dewke of Burgeyne lyeth styll at Ypurs[b] with a grette oste and as for the Frensche men hytt ys sayd here thaye hawe vetellyd and mannyd the town of Ary[c] and the remnante be gon backe agayne as hytt ys sayd

[a] Crossed out.

[b] Ypres.

[c] The French took Aire this summer, by the treachery of the commandant, the Sire de Cohen, who afterwards entered the French service.

here no more unto yowre masterschypp at thys tyme but Almyghty Jhesu hath yow yn hys blessyd kepyng Wryten at Cales[a] the iij day of Auguste

per yowr servante
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppffull master George
Cely marchaunte of the Stapell of
Calles at London yn Martt Lane
se hit dd:

95

This letter is the private communication, on perhaps very confidential business, sent at the same time as the business letter which follows. This to George Cely; the latter to the firm.

Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]iiij[xx]ij

Ryght worschypp Syr afftyr dew recomendaschon I lowly recomend me unto yowre masterschypp Furder more plese hytt yowre masterschypp to understond that thys day we hawe schyppyd bothe yowre horsse and I hawe delyverd Joysse v[s] x[d] ffl. for Almans costes here as hallff passage and brege money &c. And for hys costes yn Ynglond xx[s] ster: acordyng to yowre wrytyng &c. Furder more plese hytt yowre masterschypp to be enformyd that Margery commaundith her unto yowre masterschypp and sche tellyth me sche schulde hawe rayment as a gowne and oder thynges agaynest her chyrchyng as sche hadd the toder tyme wherof sche prays yow of an answer Item Syr John Dalton desyryth to have ij romes yn yowre stabull and he wold paye for hit and he tellyd me he wold wryte to yow for the same but Joysse tellyd me that yowre masterschypp hadd grauntyd hym the stabull and the howsse at hys comyng agayne to Calles for to occupye hit and yowre masterschypp to hawe yowre rome at yowre comyng &c. Syr pray yowre masterschypp of an answer of thys &c. Syr as for

[a] Corrected from 'London.'

yowre oder stuffe I schall send hytt unto yowre masterschypp be on of the wollers &c. No more unto yowre masterschypp at thys tyme but Jhesu kepe yow Wrytton at Calles the xiij day of Auguste.

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppffull master George Cely merchaunt of the Stappell off Calles at London in Mart Lane soo hit dd:

96

Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]iiij[xx]ij

Ryght worshyppffull masters affter dew recomendaschon I lowly recomend me unto yowre masterschyppys. Furder more plese hit yowre masterschyppys to understond that thys day I receyved an letter from yowre masterschyppys wherein ys wrytten the numbyr & poyse of yowre woll and the tale of yowre fellis whych ze hawe schyppyd at London in thys flete and the namys of every schypp &c. Item Syrs I understond be the sayd letter that yowre masterschyppys woll hawe yowre wull howssyd in yowre wull howsse be the est wache howsse [a] and yowre felles in yowre howsse by sent Nycolas chyrche [b] whych at the ryvyng alond shall be howssyd acordyng &c. Furder more plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understond that master leffetenaunt and diversse of the felleschypp hathe hadd coñenyng w[t] my lord Chamberleyn [c] and the Kynges Consell for the payment of thys hallffe zerys wagys and I understond they wull be payd at xxvj[s] viij[d] for the pownd and they wull hawe nõo noder money than nenyng grottes at iiij[d] ob. le styc Syr I understond the goode that comys nowe from

[a] The East Watch House, a tower on the east side of Calais walls.

[b] St. Nicholas Church (now demolished), at the corner of Millgate Street and Penny Street, next the Mint, Calais.

[c] Lord Hastings.

London & Ypyswiche most paye partt of the same payment Syr hytt woll be a shrode losse to receyve the nenyng grottes at v^{d} and paye hytt in to the place at iiij^{d} ob. &c Item Syr plese hytt yow to understond that I am nott payd for none of yowre warauntes of xv^{s} of the pownd nott yett but hytt ys comaundyd be Courtt that every man that hath any warantes of xv^{s} of the pownde moste be browght in to the Court the nexte Courte day and ther the Court to fynde syche menes that all the warantes schall be payd owte &c Syr as for tydynges we hawe non here for very sarten but that the Frensche men lyeth styll in garysons apon the borders and gadryth and encresyth dayly as hytt ys sayd and as for the Dewke of Borgayne hytt was sayd he was a thys syde Ypur [a] w^{t} a grett ost of men and schuld abe at Sent Tomers [b] or thys tyme but we here nott of hym yett some men sey he ys gon back agayne &c no more unto yowre masterschyppys at thys tyme but Jhesu kepe yow Wrytten at Calles the xiij day of Auguste.

per yowre servaunt
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worschyppffull masters Rechard & George Cely merchauntes of the stappell off Calles at London in Martt Lane soo hit dd:

97

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Ryght worschyppffull Syrs afftyr dew recommendaschon I lowly recommend me unto yowr masterschyppys furder more plese hit yowr masterschyppes to be enformyd that thys day the xvj day of Auguste the wull flete came to Callez bothe off Lundon and Ypysweche yn saffte thanckyd be Godd and thys same day was

[a] Ypres. [b] St. Omer.

partt londyd and hytt rysyth fayer yett thanckyd be Godd &c. Syrs oder tydynges hawe we non here but that cam owte of Yng-lond don upon the scottes [a] for the whych my lordd commaundyd a generall proseschon and at nyght bonfyers to be made at every mans dorre as was on myddsomer nyghte and all the gonnes yn the colle warkys and abowte the marttes were schett for joye and as for the Dewk of Borgayne ys at Bregys and hys company yn Brabon [b] I understond they come but slowly on and the Frensche men lyeth styll yn garysons upon the borders &c no more unto yowre master-schyppys at thys tyme but Jhesu kepe you Wrytten at Calles the xvj day of August.

per yowr servaunt
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppffull masters Rechard & George Cely mer-chauntes of the stappell off Callez at London yn Martte Lane see hit dd.

98

Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]iiij[xx]ij

Ryght worshyppfull masters after dew recomendaschon I lowly recomend me unto yowre masterschyppis Furder more plese hit yowre masterschyppys to understond that on the xx day of Auguste was redd yn courtt a letter that cam from Syr Wylliam Stocker and diversse of the fellyschypp howe that the Kynge wull have ij M[l] pownds for the syrplyssage of all soyche wulles and felles that hath ben schyppyd from the vj day of Apryll last past tyll the vij day of October nexte and for the whych he wull have

[a] The occupation of Edinburgh by the Dukes of Gloucester and Albany. Not the recovery of Berwick, which only capitulated on August 24th.
[b] Brabant.

made vj oblygaschons payabull at vj monthys and vj monthis the stic conteynyng v^{c} marke to the whych the fellyschypp hath agreydd here be courtt that ther shall be made vj oblijgaschons under the stapell seal iij payabull yn Feverell next and the toder thre payabull yn Auguste nexte after that &c. Item plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to wytt that all they that were before in the wagys of master Robard Radclyfe porter of Callez be putt owte of wagys and warnyd to voyde the town be Fryday nexte com and as for Botterell he shall owte of preson and all that were ther yn for the same mater and they all be warnyd to voyde the town of Callez and the marches wyffe childern and goodes be Fryday nexte com payn of deth for the whych I trow Botrell woll nott dyshease yow for yowre howsse neebeugers &c no more unto yowre masterschyppys at thys tyme but Jhesu hath yow in hys kepyng Wrytten at Callez the xx day of August.

per yowr servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppfull masters Rechard and George Cely merchauntys of sta[pell] of Callez at London in Martt Lane be hit dd:

99

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Ryght worschyppfull masters after dew recommendasyons I lowly recommend me unto your masterschyppys Furder more plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to wytt that all yowre woll ys howssyd drye and thanckyd be God ye have none that ys sore broken and as for yowre felles I have serchyd hem and told hem ower and ye have all yowr tale and ther ys none of hem that ys hurtt w^{t}

burnyng but ther ys a ij c rent w^{t} the londyng and the howssyng whych shall be made as schortly as I can &&c. Item plese hyt yowre masterschyppys to wytt that on Monday last was Robard Hobner was at Bregyes and he sayth the same day he sawe the Dewke of Burgeyne deperte owte of Bregys but w^{t} x horsse in to Selond for they of Gaunte and of Bregys wyll nott graunt hym syche thinges as he askyth for the Dewke askyth noo thyng of them but mony and he wyll take syche men w^{t} hym to goo uppon the frensche men as plesyd hym but the Gaunteners and they of Bregys wyll nott zeve hym noo money w^{t} owte he take syche men as they wall asyne hym for the whych he departyd into Selond[a] but I understond the frensche men lyeth styll in garysons appon the marc[hes] and encrece daylie w^{t} new men owte of hye Fraunce &&c no more unto youre masterschyppys at this [tyme] but Jhesu kepe yow Wrytten at Calles the xxiij day of Auguste

per yowre servaunte

Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppffull masters Rychard and George Cely merchantes of the stapell off Calles at London in Mortt Lane [be thys] dd:

100

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Ryght worshypfull masters after dew recomendaschon I lowly recomend me unto youre masterschyppys. Furder more plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to be enformyd that the xxviij day of Auguste hytt was agreydd here be Courtt that eny man that hadd any goods comun from London or Ypyswyche w^{t} thys last flete

[a] Zealand.

schall bryng in hys bylles of costom and subsede of sayd goodes as that day sennyght payne of xij^{d} off the pownde and that we moste make ij bylles yche of them of the hallfe the ton payabull the xix day of October nexte and the toder payabull the xx day of Fevereil nexte and we moste make a byll of xx^{s} of the sarpler made payabull at plesyr whych shall be sent ower into Inglond and wrytten upon won of the bylles before rehersyd &c. Forder more plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understond that master leffetenaunt and syche of the fellyschypp as were apwoyntyd be the Courtt hath agreyd w^{t} my lordes [a] chamberleyn [b] and the kynges consell what mony we shall paye for costom and subsede to the payment of thys hallfe zeyrs wagys fyrste we shall pay xxvj^{s} viij^{d} for the pownde sterling and these be the goldys and whyte mony that followyth that ys apoynttyd for the payment as they were corrant afore the doches dyedd fyrst :—

the new crowne .	at v^{s} vj^{d} the olde crowne at v^{s} iiij^{d}
the lewe . .	at vj^{s} viij^{d} the Andrew gylden at iiij^{s} vj^{d}
the ryder . .	at v^{s} viij^{d} the gylhellmus at iiij^{s}
the salew . .	at v^{s} vj^{d} and ij or iij oder goldes after the same rate
the olde nobull .	at xj^{s} and the nemyng grotes at iiij^{d}
the Ryall . .	at xiij^{s} iiij^{d} and the old sengull plack at ij^{d} ob

And as for and oder goldys and oder sylver they wyll non &c. No more unto yowre masterschyppys at thys tyme but Jhesu kepe yow Wrytten at Calles the xxix day of Auguste.

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppfull masters Rechard and George Cely merchauntes [of] the stappell of Callez at London in Martt Lane be this dd:

[a] Four words erased here.

[b] William, Lord Hastings.

101

Ryght worshyppfull Syr after dew recommendaschon I lowly recomend me unto yowre masterschypp furder more plese hett yowre masterschypp to be enformyd that Margere[t] ys dowghter ys past to Godd hytt was berydd thys same daye on whoys sowle Jhesu hawe mercy Syr I onderstond hytt hadd a grett pang what sycknesse hyt was I can nott saye &c Item Syr Bottrell ys departyd owte off Calles and ys yn Inglond and thys day hys wyff goyth to hym w^{t} all her stuffe and they be comaunded that they shall nott come w^{t} in the town of Callez as long as my lord chamberleyn * ys lefftenaunte of Calles &c. no more unto yowre masterschypp at thys tyme but Jhesu kepe yow Wrytten at Callez the xxix day of Auguste.

per yowre servaunte

Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worschyppfull master George Cely merchaunte off the stapell off Callez at London in Martte Lane se hit dd:

102

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Ryght worschyppffull masters affter dew recomendaschon I lowly recomend me unto yowre masterschyppys furder more plese hit yowre masterschyppys to be enfformyd that I hawe receyved a letter from yowre masterschyppys be Wylliam Daltons man whych

* Lord Hastings.

I hawe redd and well understond and I schall l do all thynges acordyng to hyt as nye as I can and as for yowre chamberynge that was at makyng at Bregys when Andryan yowre oste was at Calles I delyverd hym mony to paye for the makyng of hyt and he hath sent hyt to Callez reddy and I hawe receyved hyt every thyng acordyng to yowr remembraunce sawe the cortens be stayned but on the ton syde and ther ys no demy corten but they be all hole that ze may slycte whych ye thyncke best and as sone I can have any schypp that come to London I schall send hytt unto yowre masterschypp &c Syr as for a gosse hawke I can gett non here yett for all that come to Calles my lordd Chamberleyn [a] beyth hem upp and they be any thyng wurth &c. And as for yowre man that ze delyverd yowre mony to for hawkes I here nott of yett &c Furder mo more plese hytt yowre masterschypp to understond that here ys an ordynaunce made be all the fellyschypp the laste courtte day [that all the wull and] [b] that we schall receyve from that day forẇard redy mony yn Calles and xxvj^{s} viij^{d} fl. for the pownde ster: mony as hytt was corrant affore the Dowches of Borgayne dyed for all wull and fell that shall be sold at Calles from hens forwardd but therof the town of Laythe and Dellffe [c] schall paye but hallffe yn hondd at Calles at xxvj^{s} viij^{d} the mony as hytt was corrant affore the Dowches a Borgeyn [d] dyed and the rest at vj monthys and vj monthys at xxviij^{s} the pownd mony as hytt ys corant at the martt &c Furder more plese hytt yowre masterschppys to understond that I hawe born ynto the plase yowre bylles of Costom and subsede whych be abelyd yn courtt and I hawe born yn yowre byll off xx^{s} of the sarpler made payabull at plesur amountyth xxxv^{li} x^{s} ster: and hytt ys wrytten uppon yowre last byll payabull the xx day of Feverell as all oder mens ys yn lyke case and the bylles of xx^{s} of the sarpler schall be sent ynto Inglond to the solyster schorttly &c and as for yowre byll of costom & subsede that ys payabull the xx day of October hit

[a] Lord Hastings. [b] The words between the brackets are crossed out.
[c] Leyden and Delft. [d] The Duchess Mary.

amountes lxxix^{li} xiij^{s} v^{d} ob ster: whych moste be purveyd ffor agaynest thys payment yn thys nexte martt for the mony the whych I schuld a receyved owte of the plase for yowre warrantes of xv^{s} of the pownde I can hawe but xiiij^{li} fl. yett for hytt hawe be spoken of in Courtt and ther be dyversse that be yn casse lyke as yew and the Courtt sayth they can tak noo derecschon for hyt tell hytt be grown yn tresory for the whych they saye ye moste forbere a seson &c no more unto yowre masterschyppys at thys tyme but Jhesu kepe yow Wrytten at Calles the iij day of September.

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppffull masters Rechard & Georg Cely merchauntes of the stappell aff Callez at London yn Martt Lane se hit dd:

103

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Ryght worshyppffull masters affter dew recomendaschon I lowly recomend me unto yowre masterschyppys furder more plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understondd that I hawe cast owte a sarpler of yowre wull n^{o} xij and the . .ft packer comend hit grettly be the whych hytt schall be awardyd the nexte marte day and I hawe sett all yowre felles redy for to presse &c Item Syr plese hit yowre masterschyppys understondd that here ys noo gosse hawkes to gett for all that comyd my lord Chamberleyn [a] bye hem upp &c here hath come diversse hawkes but they be so dere that no man byeth hem but my lordd they be at iiij nobulles v nobulles an hawke &c Syr oder tydynges hawe we non here yett

[a] Lord Hastings.

but Allmyghty Jhesu hath yow yn Hys blessyd kepyng Wrytten at Callez the viij day of September.

per yowre servante
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppffull masters Rechard & George Cely merchauntes of the stapell at Callez at London at Mart Lane see hit dd:

104

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Ryght worshippfull masters affter dew recommendatyon I lowly recommend me unto yow masterschippys furder more plese hyt yowre masterschipp to understond that yowre felles be sell and presyd at xiiij nobulles the c but as for yowre woll I as nott zett waeddyd but hytt schall as schortly as I can &c Furder more plese hit yower masterschyppys to understond that we have tydynges hew that the Frensch men hath goten the cyte off Lewke and sclayne the boschoppe of Lewke[a] and we have tydynges how nowe that men of the londde of Lewke w^{t} the helpe of Braboners[b] hathe broken upp all the burgys betwyxte Fraunce & them And

[a] Louis de Bourbon, Bishop of Liège, murdered by William de la Mark, the Wild Boar of the Ardennes, 1482. The murder was evidently by common rumour attributed to French incitement, and was looked upon as a step in the interests of Louis XI. for the embarrassment of the Burgundians, a view popularised by Sir Walter Scott in *Quentin Durward*, where he deliberately misplaces the murder and connects it with different circumstances, in 1468, when a false report of the murder is recorded by De Comines. The Bishop was fifth son of Charles I., Duc de Bourbon and d'Auvergne. He was first-cousin and brother-in-law to Charles the Bold, but nearly as closely connected with Louis, for his elder brothers, Jean II. and Pierre II. de Bourbon, married respectively that king's sister and daughter.

[b] Brabanters

hath bes[ey]gyd the town off Lewke agayn and lyckly to recover the town agayne &c. Furder more plese hyt yowre masterschyppys to understond that we have tydynges here that the town off Gaunte & the town of Bregys be at a feryaunce betwyxte hemsellfe in so mekyll that they off Gaunte hath sent to the Inglysch naschon and to Dutch naschon & Bregys commaundyng them to sett styll and doo her merchaundys and entermete w[t] noo party payne off that woll come thereof &c. No more unto yowre masterschippys at thys tyme but Jhesu kepe yow Wrytten at Callys the xij day of September.

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppffull masters Rechard Cely and George Cely merchauntes of the stapell at Callez at London in Martte Lane do hit dd.

105

Ryght reverent and worschupful Syr y reytecomand me unto you desyryng to here of yowr wellefare Furder morre I thank yow of the grette cher that ye dydde me at my laste beyng wytthe yow Syr y made a bargyn wytthe you at that sesyn the wycche I wolyde y hadde sleppyd the wylys for theke costemerys that y trosty[d] moste for to asowyld them and y trostyd that y solde nott abowte ther wolle aboffe xiij[s] viij[d] a tod & now ye y con at bey ther woll honder xiiij[s] & xiiij[s] & vj[d] a tod the pryse ys that y bey at aboffe that I solde you ryght mycche & to recckyn the reffys y salle lesse be my trothe a nobell or x[s] in effry S.[a] & as my trothe helpe me and they moste haffe reddy money bey and bey they that werr wonte to leffe in my honde moste parte of ther money nowe

[a] Sarpler.

they moste nedys haffe halle ther money & now y moste troste to your cortesy & y prye you consedyr thys well as ye may have my sarfys and I moste troste to yow that I may haffe the ij c[ll] that ye sayd y solde nott haffe hytte tyll Nowhembyr I praye as hartely as y cane that ye make hytte reddy wytthe in f xiiij dayys haffter Myhelmas or helse I hame hottely samyd for I made myselfe neffyr so barr wytthe howte money and therfor I pray yow that ye mak hytte reddy no morr to you at thys tyme botte Jhesu kepe you Wrettyn at Norchelacche[a] the xx daye of Septembyr.

Bey Wylliam Mydwynter.

Addressed: Thys letter be delyvyrt to Rychard Cely in London in Marte Lane.

106

Rychard Cely the younger

Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]iiij[xx]ij

Ruight whell belovyd brother George I recomend me wntò yow w[t] aull myne hartte informeyng yow that I hawhe yowr zeunge ho~sse at London and I hawhe spokyn w[t] the beste cossars and smytthys in Smethe fellde and thay gewhe me cowncell to lette hym ron in a parke tyll Hallowtyd and then take hym wp e and ser hym and lette hym stand in the dede of whyntter and let ron the next somer and then he schawll be sawhe whell he ys hors no mor to yow at thys tym Jhesu kepe yow Wryt at London the xxvj day of Septemby.

per yowr brother
Rychard Cely.

[a] Northleach.

I schawll seke the scwreste plas in Essex for yowr zewnge hors and I pray yow remembyr an hawke

Addressed: A my whell belovyd brother George
Cely merchand of the stapell at
Calleys or the martte be thys dd:

107

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Ryght worschyppfull Syr after dew recomendaschon I lowly recomend me unto yowr masterschypp furder more plese hit yowre masterschypp to understond that Joysse and yowre horsse cam to Calles the Wedensday nexte after ze departyd from Callez all in safte thanckyd be Godd &c Syr as for any merchauntes strangers or hollonders ther cam non syn ze departyd &c. Syr ze shall receyve of the bryngger herof a letter derectyd to yow from master Rechard &c. Syr I hawe sent ower yowre letter yn to Inglond that ze lefte here but hit was v days after ze departed fyrst for here was noon passage no sonner the wynd was so contrary and the see soo trublys passage was hallfe see ower wnys or twyse and was fayne to come to Callez agayne &c Item Syr yowre masterschyp most remember to bryng home w^{t} you an c vj^{li} fl. for to paye yowre costom and subsede &c Syr the begynyng of thys next weke I pourpose that Joysse shall come forward w^{t} yowre horssys toward yowre masterschypp &c. no more unto youre masterschypp at thys tyme but Jhesu kepe yow Wrytten at Callez the last day of September.

per yowre servaunt
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppfull master George
Cely merchaunte of the stapell at
Callez he beyng at the martte see
hit dd:

108

Rychard Cely the younger

Anno Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{xx}ij^{a}

Riught whelbelovyd brother I recwmende me harttely wnto yow informeyng yow that howr mother and whe ar in good heyll thankyd be God and so we truste that ze be I hawhe byn at Raylay and gewyn them iij^{s} iiij^{d} and now whe hawhe day of doyng of howr homayge tyll Myhellmas nexte cum. Syr I send to you Wylliam Mydwynttys letter clossyd in thys letter I whotte not how to anser hyt and howr fathers towmbe ys a settynge wp and howr heyme ys heyr for mony and thys day I departte in to Cottasowlde and how sone thay wyll cawll apon for the xx^{s} of the sarpelles I cannot say I am at my whyttys end w^{thowte} yow cwmfortte Syr I hawhe put yowr zewnge gray hors in Thondyrlay Parke [b] and ther he has pastyr I now and ther are byt iij horse goynge in aull the parke and ze muste pay the parcar for hys paster iiij^{d} a wheke and I hawhe promysyd hym a bow and I trwste that he wyll se whell to yowr hors and make yow sportte at yowr cwmyng he ys a man of master Mongewnbres [c] no mor to yow at thys tym Jhesu kepe yow Whryt at London the iij^{de} day of Octobur.

per yowr brother
Rychard Cely.

I pray yow sende me whryttyng in as schortte spas as ze may.

Addressed: Unto my brother George Cely merchand of the stapell at Calles or the martte so dd.

[a] *Sic*; an error for 1482. [b] Thundersley, in Essex, near Rayleigh. [c] Sir Thomas Montgomery.

109

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Ryght worshyppffull Syr affter dew recomendaschon I lowly recomend me unto yowre masterschypp furder more plese hytt yowre masterschypp to understond that John Tate whych shall be lettenaunte off the stapell ys come to Callez &c Syr as for any salys off wull or fell I hawe made non syn yowre masterschypp departyd for here cam noe merchauntes straungers syns wherfor yowre masterschypp most remember for yowre costom and subsede yn the martte &c. Syr as for all youre thingges here doyth well but as for the wull flete off London ys nott comon yett I understond be men that come thens they be nott all poynttyd upp yett and wheder master Rechard schyppyth any felles or nott at thys tyme I wott nott &c. Item Syr I hawe delyverd Joysse for hys exspens for the horssys & hymsellff vj^{s} ix^{d} fl. &c. Item Syr plese hit yow to understond that my lordd chamberleyn[a] gooyth over ynto Ingelond w^{t} yn day or twayne w^{t} all hys howssold mayne &c no more unto yowre masterschypp att thys tyme but Jhesu kepe. Wrytten at Callez the vj day of October.

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Syr ze schall receyve off Joysse iiij qwarters & ij slevys of yowre black gowne and a blacke bugge furre to the sayd gowne.

Addressed: To my worshyppffull master George Cely merchaunte of the stappell at Callys at the martte be thys delyverd.

[a] Lord Hastings.

On the dorse, in a different handwriting:

Of Jacob Wylliamson and hys felles

C xxiij . . iiij^{s} iiij^{d} for . .	xxvj^{li} fls. xiij^{s}
Item j ryallys xiiij^{s} vj^{d} [a]	xxix^{s}
Item an phellypus	iij^{s} iiij^{d} fls.
Item iij plalkes	xxvj^{d}
Summa . .	xxviij^{li} vij^{s} vj^{d} fls.
Item iij nyme grottes	xiiij^{li} fls.
Item ij^{d} ob	xxx^{s}
Item iij pensshe	xx^{s}
Item xxij Andre v^{s}.	v^{li} xj^{s} fls.
Item xvj Rydars vj^{s} iiij^{d} [b]	xxxviij^{s}
Item ij crownes v^{s} viij^{d}	xj^{s} iiij^{d}
A Rynyshe and ij^{d}	v^{s}
ij postlates ij^{s} viij^{d}	v^{s} iiij^{d}
An dawethe	iiij^{s}
ij arnowldes ij^{s} iiij^{d}	iiij^{s} viij^{d}
ij parttes of one fallewe	iiij^{s} j^{d}
An pesse gowld of	xx^{d}
ij^{d} ob	xx^{d}
of vj lepesse	xiiij^{s}
in v^{d} ob	v^{s} vj^{d}
in v^{d}	iij^{s} iiij^{d}
v^{d}	x^{s} xviij^{d}
Summa . .	xxviij^{li} vij^{s} vj^{d} fls.
Item in v^{d} lepesse	v^{li} fls.
Item of iij^{d}	xx^{s}
Item in vj le pesse	xij ?
Item in ij^{d} ob	viij^{s}
Item xviij hettrytus iiij^{s} iiij^{d} . . .	iij^{li} xviij^{s}

[a] Should be ij ryallys.

[b] Should be vj Rydars.

Item v rynyshe iiij^{s} x^{d}	. . . .	xxiiij^{s} iiij^{d}
Item rydars	. . . . .	xij^{s} viij^{d}
An falewe	. . . . .	vj^{s} ij^{d}
An davyd	. . . . .	iiij^{s}
ij Andreus	. . . . .	x^{s}
An Rynyshe	. . . . .	iiij^{s} x^{d}
An	. . . .	xvj^{d}
Item in v^{d} ob	. . . . .	xxviij^{s} vij^{d}
Item in ij^{d} ob	. . . . .	xxxv^{s}
Item ij Ryallys	. . . . .	xxix^{s}
Item in grottes	. . . . .	iiij^{s} v^{d}
	Summa . .	xviij^{li} xviij^{s} vj^{d} fls.
	Summa totall .	lxxv^{li} xiij^{s} vj^{d} fls.
Item iiij^{xx} xvj Andreus v^{s}	. . . .	xxxiiij^{li} fls.
Item And Andreus	. . . . .	v^{s}
Item	. . . . .	xx^{d}
	Summa . .	xxiiij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} fls.
	Summa totallis .	C.

To be done hevyr y go hens to feche my xxv^{li} x^{s} of Flords to hawe in my byllz of Nicholas hout to make xx ster : at the syght.

In another handwriting:

Per Clays my sarvant.

John de Bott of Barow an hoggeshed w^{t} this token.

110

Rychard Cely the younger

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij

Ryght whell belovyd brother I recomend me unto yow informeyng yow that thys day I resavyd a letter frome yow whryt

at Andewarpe the fyrste day of Octobur the qwheche I do well wndyrstond and I am sory that the war ys so grett in that partte ys at Hollondars may not cwm dowyn I hawhe beyn at Chepyng Nortton and sett awll thynges in good whay and w^{t} my naym John Cely and he has gatheryd xvj sacke of fayr wholl and now heyr ys cwm Wylliam Mydwyntter byt I spake not wyth hym zeyt how that I do w^{t} hym I chawll wryt to yow in my nexte letter howr mother ys at Byrttes zeyt myny thankyd be God the Kyng ys at the Towr and hys lordes in cwnsell dayly I pray God send ws a myrry whorllde hyt ys ruyll for a mane to scharge hym far now a days for I heyr of none ottyrans zeyffe I may departte fayr frome the bargen w^{t} Wylliam Mydwytter that ze and I made I wyll do my beste me thynke hyt wyll be whel done for goude detturs ar sclow payars &c. I wndyrstonde be Robard Eryke that ze hafe ij fayr hawkes I whowld fayne that ze whoullde spede yow into Ingelonde whe longe sor for yow Bayard yowr hors dos whell and as for yowr zenge gray hors ronys in as good an parke as any in Essex as Levynge the bryngear of thys letter can informe yow Syr ottes be deyr and so ys aull othyr corne. I hawhe resavyd yowr hangynge of yowr schamber from Wylliam Cely. No more to yow. Jhesu kepe yow. Wryt at London xvij day of Octobur.

per Rychard Cely.

Ze mwste remembyr to by canvase to packe in.

Addressed: Unto my riught whell belovyd brother George Cely merchand of the stapell at Calleys or Bregys so dd.

On the Dorse: xix letters & billes of Anno iiij^{xx}ij.

111

Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]iiij[xx]ij

Right worschyppful Syr after dew recomendaschon I lowly recomend me unto yowre masterschypp furder more plese hytt yowre masterschypp to understond that the xviij day of October Joysse and yowre iij men cam to Calys w[t] my hawkes all yn safte thanckyd be Godd and I have receyved from youre masterschypp be the sayd Joysse an letter the whych I well understond and accordyng to youre letter at the next passage they schall goo owyr w[t] youre hawkes &c. Syr the wull schyppys be com to Callez all save iij whereof ij be yn Sandwiche haven and oon ys at Oste end[a] and he hath cast ower all hys wull owyrburdd Syr ze have no wull nor fell come at schyppyng wherfor I am the gladar for wull and fell ys passyng fowle araid at thys tyme &c. Syr as for the Caye that zede to London wherin yowre chamberyng was not reffelyd on the see but an noder schypp that zede w[t] hym was ryffylyd w[t] Flemynges for the Caye that hadd yowre chamberyng in hath ben at London and dyschargyd and ys come to Callys agayn ledyn w[t] wu[ll] &c. Syr the next schypp that goyth to London I shall send home beyr bye &c. Syr my lord chamberleyn[b] ys ower ynto Inglond and ther was at Dower to abyde hym v[c] men all yn whyte gownys to bryng hym home &c. No more unto yowre masterschypp at thys tyme but Jhesu kepe you. Wrytten at Calles the xix day of October.

per youre servaunt
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppfull master George
Cely merchaunte of the stapell at
Callez at the marte be hit dd.

[a] Ostend. [b] Lord Hastings.

112

Jhesu

Ryght worschipffull Syr I recomand me unto yow ever more dyssyeryng to her off yower wellfare and I thanke yow Syr hertely off yowr gret labors that ze have done for me os [*sic*] brynyng my ij oblygacyons of the Stapyll to Cales and I pray yow Syr hertely to send me word whowe that ye have done w^{t} them whedyr ze have resayvyd my mony off tham or not and yff ye have not ressayvyd hyt at the comyng of thys letter to yow that ye wyll do so mychе for me to ressayve hyt and I had had my oblygacions at the marte dyverys men of your place wolde have gyffyn me Flemmyche mony for tham xxvj^{s} vj^{d} flemmyche for the pound John Hatfeld was on and oder dyverys but I had lever yowr masterschipe had them than any oder man that I knowe of yowr plase and Syr yff ze have ressayvyd the mony of them ouder in your custum or in scheyhe mony os the plas payis owt that ze wyll kepe my oblygacions styll in yowr handys and yff thay be full content & payd and late the colectors can sell them for I muste delyver tham to the sam man that owyd tham for ther be dyverys men that had ressayvyd morre mony of tham than I and I knowe not whow mychе mony that I have ressayvyd of tham tyll I se the oblygacions and that ys causse that I wryt to yow of tham and I besche [*sic*] yow sir and yff ye have not ressayvyd my mony of tham that ze wyll ressayve hyt and do so to send me the oblygacions in all the hast be the next soore man that comys for I muste delyver my rekeyng up of tham to hym that owys tham that knowys Jhesu who have yow in hys blyssyd kepyng Amen. At London the xvj day of November last passyd and I besche [*sic*] yow Syr of an answer of thys letter in all haste.

By yowr sarvand

Harry Bryan.

Addressed: To my ryght worschipfull Gorge Cele
marchand of the stapull at Calles
thys letter be delyverd.

113

Probably written in 1482, when war was considered to be imminent with Franc

Jhesu

Ryght reverent syr and my specyall good frend y recommound me unto you forder mor plessed you to wete that y have ressayved a lettere from you wreten at Calles the xij day of November the whyche letter I have red and well understond that ye have ressayved a letter from me wreten at London the ix day of November yn the wyche letter I wrote a clausse of youre horsse the wyche y understond ye taked sor at yowre stomak Syr yn good fayth y am sory therfor for and y had west that ye would a taked so sor y would nott a wreten so unto yow nat and y schuld agette therbey xx nobelys but ye schall understond watt caused me so for to wryte unto yow syr ye wrote unto my master that ye sophased be lyklyhod yt schuld be war and yeff yt so be yt schuld be war ther schuld be gret rydyng and mekell ado abowte Calles and yeff ye be well horssed I feyr me that soche sowdyerys as ye be aquyted wyt all schulld causse you for to put yowre body in a venter and yeff ther com any thyng to yow hoder wysse then goode in good faythe a grette parte of my mastys gey in thys world wayrer y do syr thys caused me in good fayt for to wryte so unto you as y dod for y know well and ye have no good horss they woll natt deseyer yowtte of the toune syr in good faythe my master yower fader neder my maystres yowre moder moder [*sic*] knowe no thyng of my wrytyng and yn good fayth ye shall understond that I wrote not so unto yow for no spyte nedor for no hewell well that I have to yow but for grat love for in good faythe savyng my master owre fader and youer broder Rechard in good faythe ther ys no man in Inglond y would do so mechè for and that ye schuld know and ye had ned and that caused me to be so bould to wryte so to you the wyche I would yt had be undo the wylys ye taked so as ye doo no more unto you att

thys tyme but the Trenyte have you in His kepyng Wreten at Alverley [a] the xix day of November.

par Wylliam Maryon.

Addressed: Unto George Cely marchant of the Stapull at Calles thys letter be delyverd.

114

This is the only document, we cannot call it a letter, in the collection, which deals with the violent revolutions of the English Court during the period covered by the correspondence. The style is so guarded as to be very obscure, but the date is clearly fixed as between the death of Hastings on June 13, 1483, and the creation of Lord Howard as Duke of Norfolk on June 28. It is also evidently before the assumption of the crown by Richard III. on June 25. The fear for the life of the king, Edward V., is ominous of the future; but the writer, George Cely by the hand, or his informant, Sir John Weston, is still uncertain how the revolution may turn.

Ther ys grett romber in the reme, the scottes has done grett [sic] yn Ynglond,[b] schamberlayne [c] ys dessesset in trobell the chaunseler [d] ys dysprowett and nott content the boshop of Ely [e] ys ded yff the kyng [f] God saffe his lyfe wher desett, the Dewk of Glosetter [g] wher in any parell, geffe my lorde prynsse [h] wher God

[a] Alveley.

[b] On January 12, 1483, the Duke of Albany had re-opened treasonable communications with England, which resulted in a treaty on his behalf, and on that of the banished Earl of Douglas, signed in London on February 11. A recrudescence of Border warfare resulted, but what damage precisely is referred to here does not appear.

[c] Lord Hastings, executed June 13.

[d] Not Dr. Russell, Bishop of Lincoln, the actual Lord Chancellor, but Thomas Rotherham, Archbishop of York, who had been deprived of the Great Seal in May, and who was arrested when Hastings was killed.

[e] Morton, Bishop of Ely, afterwards Archbishop, Chancellor and Cardinal, arrested when Hastings was killed.

[f] Edward V. [g] Richard III. [h] The Duke of York.

defend wher trobellett, yf my lord of Northehombyrlond [a] wher dede or grettly trobellytt, yf my lorde Haward [b] wher slayne

De Munsewr Sent Jonys.

Summa.

(The rest of the page torn off.)

On the Dorse : [c]

The Som of Nycolas Brystall hys partyshon of bothe oblygacyons amuntes . . . . } xxxj^{li} viij^{s} vij^{d} ster:

Item thys amountes in fl. at xxvj^{s} le li. to . xl^{li} xvij^{s} j^{d} fl.

Item Nycolas Brystallys partyshon of bothe oblyggacyons amountes unto . . . . } xxxj^{li} iiij^{s} vij^{d} ster:

Item ytt amountes in fl^{s} at xxvj^{s} le pound . . xl^{li} xj^{s} xj^{d} fl^{s}.

The rest of bothe oblygacyons amountes unto. x^{li} viij^{s} j^{d} ster:

Item I must pay unto Hary Bryan at Synysyon marte be an byll of my hond for his wharrant and the rest of his oblygacyons . . . . . } l^{li} fl^{s}.

115

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}iij

Ryght worschyppffull Syrs and my specyall goode mast[er]s affter all drew recommendacyon hadd I lowly recommend me unto you Furder more plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understond that I sent unto yowre masterschyppys at the ostes be George Reede servaunte w^{t} my lordd of Sent Jonys ij letters oon derectyd

[a] Henry Percy, created Earl of Northumberland in 1470, when John Neville surrendered the Earldom in exchange for the title of Marquis of Montagu. Northumberland was fully in the confidences of Edward IV. and Richard III., but probably betrayed the latter at Bosworth.

[b] John Lord Howard, created Duke of Norfolk on June 28, 1483. Killed at Bosworth.

[c] The first three lines crossed out.

to master Rechardd the toder to yowre masterschypp the whych I understond be my goddfader Maryons wrytyng that the sayd letters at that tyme were nott receyved wherof I marvell grettly &c. Item Syr plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understonde that Gyessebryght wan Wynsbarge hath ben here at Callez lattly but he bowght noo wull but he was here for matters that he hadd to doo yn owre Courtt and I spake w^{t} hym and I askydd hym wheder John Delowppys hadd wrytten to Petter Bayle & delytte lyke as he promysyd me to doo and Gyesbryght sayd to me that John Delowppys sayd unto hym at hys comyng fourth that he hadd wrytten to Petter Bayle to delyver yowre masterschyppys as myche mony as he myght spare and allsoo John Delowppys sayd unto Gyesbryght that he wold make ower amyche mony yn thys matter as schall content the hole some of yowre bylles trustyng that yowre masterschyppys wyll doo them as grett plesser yn tyme to come &c. Item Syr plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understondd that oon Tewysday the ij day of December hytt was agreyd here be Courtt that bylles of xx^{s} of the sarplers payabull at plessur of the gooddes that cam last from London and allsoo of that ys come now from Boston schall be sent ower to answer syche charges as ben grown yn Inglondd and Syr yff the bylles of plessur com ower I schall send ower to yowr masterschyppys as myche mony as schall content yowr byll but wheder thes bylles schall com ower or nott zett wee can nott tell yff we paye the hole costom here I can send ower noo mony as yett I hawe payd hallffe yowr costom here all redy and hallff my goddfader Maryon's and I hawe taken Rechard Parker John Parkers son of Callez for to receyve yn thys martt all syche specyalltes of yowrs payabull yn thys martt fyrst an oblygacyon of Allbryght Allbryght son & Cleys Peter son and ther fellowys containing xxxij^{li} ster: Item a byll of Jacobb Gyesbryght son and Jacob Harman son whyche I lent them to paye at thys martt containing xiij^{li} ster: and the byll of Crystower of Collyus & Peyrs Joye containing x^{li} fl. whych he wyll receyve and bryng w^{t} hym home to Callez to answer the rest of

yowre costom &c. Item Syr plese hyt yow to understond that the alowaunce ys come ower to Callez wherby [I] schall recayve uppon yowre custom & subsede yowr condyte mony iij^{s} iiij^{d} ster: of the sarpler whych ze paid yn Inglondd and alsoo the ij^{s} viij^{d} ster: of the sarpler whyche we payd here to John Narsbye &c. Item Syr plese hytt yow to understond that Boston flete ys come to Callez all yn saffte thanckyd be God save the Battowll whych ys yett behynd and Joye hathe yn an C. sarpelles wull & fell and they here noo thynge of her here yett I pray Godd send her well hover &c. Item Syr plese hytt yow to understond that here ys a veryaunce fall betwyxte owre oste Thomas Graunger and the fellyschypp of owre logyng for Thomas Graunger promysyd us at hys comyng yn to owre logyng that we schuld paye noo more for owre burdd but iij^{s} iiij^{d} fl. a weke, at the hye tabull and ij^{s} viij^{d} at the syde tabull and nowe hee sayth he wyll have noo lesse than iiij^{s} a weke at the hye tabull and xl^{d} at the syde tabull wherfor the fellyschypp here wyll departe yn to oder logynges som to oon plase and som to anoder Wylliam Dalton wyll be at Robard Torneys and Raff-temyngton and master Brownys man of Stannford schall be at Thomas Clarkes and so all the fellyschypp departes sawe I wherfor I lett yowre masterschyppes hawe knowledge that ze may do as hytt schall lyke yow best No more unto yowre masterschyppys at thys tyme but Allmyghty Jhesu preserve yow. Wrytten at Callez the v day of December.

per yowre sarvaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppffull masters Rechard and George Cely merchauntes of the Stappell at Callez at London in Martt Lane soo hit dd.

116

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}iij

The complaints of the Flemish merchants recorded in this letter seem to have been met by the conventions concluded between Richard III. and the two opposing governments in the Netherlands, that of Maximilian and that of the Flemish towns in September and October respectively, 1484. Rymer xii. 248, 249.

Ry[ght] worschyppffull masters after dew recommendacyon hadd I lowly recommend me unto yowre masterschyppys Furder more plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understond that Wyllykyn John Delowpys man ys here at Callez and hath schewyd me that John Delowppys dydd wryte unto Peter Bayle & Delyte to speke w^{t} yowre masterschyppys that [John] Delowppys myght hawe all yowre Cottes walles that remaynyth here at Callez and paye yow for hytt yn Ynglond as he hath don yn tymes past and soo Wyllykyn sayth that Peter Bayle hath wrytten unto John Delowppys that he hath spoken w^{t} yowre masterschyppys for hym and how that yowre masterschyppys answeryd Peter Bayle that I schuld be demenyd lyke as yowre masterschyppes wrote me wherfor Wyllykyn sayth that John Delowppys prayd me that I wold se[ll] no more of yowre Cottes wull tell yowre masterschyppys wrate me of the same matter and I hawe answeryd hym agayne I wold kepe noon for hym but take the markett as hytt comyth w^{t} owte yowre masterschyppys wrytyth me the contrary for I tellyd hym he hath nott deservyd yn payng of the last to hawe resspyte of thys but he sayth to me hytt schall be schorttly payd &c. Item plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understond that here ys come to Callez vhych ys purpossyd to come ynto Inglond sarten merchauntes of Flaunders the whych sarten of the gooddys belongyth unto that was taken yn the schyppys that were browght yn to Sandwyche hawen at the seson the Kyngges goode grace was theyr[a] wherfor the sayd merchauntes hath browght a letter from the yong Dewk

[a] Richard III. was at Canterbury January 12, 1484. He probably visited Sandwich about the same time, but there seems to be no other record of it.

Phellypp and the councell of Flaunders derectyd unto the mayer and fellyschypp of the stappull at Callez desyryng them to wryte unto the Kynges good grace that he wyll be faverabull unto hys sewgyettes and that hys goode grace wyll see they maye hawe restytyschon of ther gooddes that ys taken be hys sewgeyttes lyke as he hath don yn hys londd of Flaunders dyschargyd the Kyngges sewgettes and made hem restytyschon of ther goodes and soo thes merchauntes comyth ower ynto Ynglond and schall hawe wrytyng from the fellyschypp of the stappell here to Kynges good grace and allsoo to the mayer of the stappull for to labour for them yn ther matter &c. Item Syr plese hytt yow to understond that the Councell of Flaunders hath lett crye yn every towne to be redy in harnesse as sone as the towne bell rynggyth and allsoo he that wyll take wages to enter hys name to the Regent* for to w^t^ standd the Dewk Maxymelyans for they sey . . . . because he hath gooten ij townes of Flaunders . . . . edy & styll lyeth but as for as wee knowe here they wyll hawe pese w^t^ Inglond &c. No more unto yowre masterschyppys at thys tyme but allmyghty Jhesu preserve yow Wrytten at Callez the x day of Fevere

per yowre servaunt
Wylliam Cely.

Item Syr here beth dyversse merchauntes of Bruges and they hawe bowght myche wull and they hawe ben in handd w^t^ me for yowre cottes wull butt I can sell them none w^t^ owte they maye hawe passe day of payment as they hawe of oder men wherfor hytt ys to thyncke they put noo mystruste yn Flaunders.

Addressed: To my worschyppffull masters Rechard and George Cely merchauntes of the Stappell at Callez at London in Martt Lane soo hit dd.

* This must be Anne de Beaujeu. The Flemish Towns were in close communication at the time with France, their nominal suzerain. See Kervyn de Lettenhove, *Histoire de Flandre*, Livre xviii.

117

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}iij

Ryght worschyppffull masters affter all dew recommedacyon I lowly recommend me unto yowre masterschyppys Furder more plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understond that I hawe sold yowre iij thowsand ij^{c} and oodd felles of Cottessold whych cam w^{t} the last flete for xiiij nobulles the c to Claysse Peterson and Wylliam Ardson of Dellffe[a] Syr they be nott zett all delyverd but as sone as they be delyverd I schall send yowre masterschyppys the rekenyng of hem &c. Item plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understond that Gyesbryght van Wynsbarge ys com to Callez and soo he hath spoken to me to wytt yff I hadd any wrytyng from yow of the matter that Peter Bale spoke to yowre masterschyppys of and I tellyd hym naye lykewyse as hytt ys that I hawe noo wrytyng from yow nott lattly wheroff he sayd he marvellyd never the less he desyryth to hawe the rest of yowre Cottessold woll and he wold make me a byll in the name of John Delowpys and hymsellfe of the hole som of mony that the wull schuld draw made payabull at plesur and yowre masterschyppys schuld chese wheder ze wold be payd in Inglond or here yff yow wold hawe ytt in Ynglond ze schuld be payd w^{t}in ij monthys or less yff ze wyll be payd here ze schall be payd be Ester and schorttlyer and zeff yowre masterschyppys wyll hawe hytt soo and I answeryd hym agayne that I myght nott sell non to noo man w^{t}owte redy mony nor wyll nott w^{t}owte yowre masterschyppys commaunde me to doo than he sayd he trowyd I schuld have wrytyng from yow schorttly for that matter for he sayd he supposyd yowre masterschyppys were content & plesyd or elles

[a] Delft.

schall be schorttly for he saythe he hath sent ower lattly to Peter yn bylles iijc^{li} sterlyng and now w^{t} thys passage ijc^{li} sterlyng Syr I thyncke he menys trewly for he sayth yff ze misse truste hym he wyll sett yow in asewerte how that ever the world goyth &c. but as for Flaunders I thynke they wyll nott breke w^{t} us but Syr ther be sarten banyschyd Englysch * men that be oon the see hath taken v or vj sayle of Spaynardds ladyn w^{t} wyne comyng yn to Flaunders &c. Furder more plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understond that ther ys an ordynaunce made here be Courtt for the alldor men of Callez whych be free men of the stappell how th[er] they schall lewe ther alldermanschypp and all oder jurdyccyons in Callez be a day exprest and be only of the stappull or elles to be crossyd the plase and soo oon. Saterday last was they all were comaunded to be at Courtt uppon payne of ther hinusse and soo all thes that ther names heraffter followyth were there at Court fyrst John Chawley, Harry Achamber, Thomas Benett, Alyn Reddman, Romenett Desall, Wylliam Fethyan, Robard Brugham, Wylliam Muston, John Deram, And there the leffetenaunte schewyd unto them how that the fellyschypp fownd them grewyd w^{t} them becawse they were sworne fyrst unto the stappell and browght upp theyr and syns sworne unto the jurdyccyon of the towne and observe that yn many thynges contrey the welth of the plase wherfor ther ys an ordynaunce made they schall come in and schow hem as fre men of the plase and forsake ther alldermanschypp and jurdyccyon of the town or elles yff they wold nott they schuld schewe hytt theyr and they schuld be dyschargyd of ther fredome of the stappell and soo they promysyd all theyr for to dyscharge them of ther town and take hem oonly to the fredome of the stappull sawyng only twayne Romenett Desall and Wylliam Fethyan whyche beythe crossyd the plase &c. Item Syr I beseche

* Possibly refugees from the late attempt of the Duke of Buckingham and the Earl of Richmond. Certain Breton ships, which had sailed with the latter in his abortive invasion, had taken refuge in Flemish ports and were committing piracy. Englishmen may have manned some of them. *MS. Harl.* 1632.

yowre masterschypp to remember to send ower the pampelett that I schall make my rekenyng bye that I myghte clere hytt &c. No more unto yowre masterschyppys at thys tyme but Allmyghty Jhesu preserve yow Wrytten at Callez the xxiiij day of Feverell.

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Item Syr my master Rechard wrate me that I or Joysse schuld purvey for onyun seedd of Sent Thomas Syr hytt ys soo wee can gett non for hytt ys at xx^{s} a pownde.

Addressed: To my worschyppffull masters Rechard and George Cely merchauntes of the stappell at Callez at London in Martt Lane soo hitt dd.

118

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}iij

Ryght worschyppffull masters after all dew recomendaschon I lowly recomend me unto yowre masterschyppes Furder more plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understond that I have receyved a letter lattly from yowre masterschyppys beryng date the xvj day of Fevere be the tenor wherof I understond that Peter Bayle hath ben w^{t} yowre masterschyppes for that John Delowpys myght have the rest of yowr Cottes wull and how that yowre masterschyppys hath grauntyd hym w^{t} that ze may be payd of the oon hallff at London betwyxte thys and Ester and the rest w^{t}in iiij monthys after the delyverey of the sayd wull &c. Syr hytt ys soo that Gyesbryght and Wyllykyn beth here and thys letter that yowre masterschypp sent unto me was hadd to Bruges w^{t} sarten letters of John Delowpys and so John Delowpys sent hytt heder agayne

and a letter to Gyesbryght and Wyllykyn how that Peter Bayle wrote unto hy[m] how that he hath a promyse of yowre masterschypp lyke as ze have wrytten in yowre letter to me but I sayd unto them that I hawe promysyd the wull before to anoder man but newer the lesse I hawe taken a goddes peny of hem acordyng to the pryce of the place and when hytt ys wayedd they shall mak a byll in John Delowppys name and Gyesbryght of the hole sum of mony that the wull schall drawe unto & the byll made payabull at London at yowre plesor and allsoo Gyesbryght hath promysyd me that hytt schall be payd be Ester the hole sum at the farthest Syr I hope hytt ys sewer I nowzth for they ar fast men and allsoo that Peter Bayle hath promysid to content yowre masterschyppes howsom ever the world goys and allsoo I thyncke Flaunders wyll nott breke w^t^ us for we putt hem in noo missetruste here for ther ys noo man here that sellyth new wull but hytt schall be Ester mart or hee schall hawe hys mony &c. Item Syr yowr masterschypp wrytyth me that I wrate yow nott whatt mony I receyvedd for the iij sarpplleres wull I sold unto Wylliam Kenett Syr hytt was all in nemyng grottes sawe xxiiij^li^ ster: in carowlles whych I schall send ower unto yowre masterschypp yff yee wyll that I schall soo doo And I trow I schall gett more yff ze wyll hawe more &c. Item Syr plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understond that the Dewk Maxymelyanys ys in Flaunders wyth mych pepull and he hath sarten townys in Flaunders submyttyd unto hym and as on Tewsday the xxv day of Fevere he was w^t^ a thousand horsys at Bruges gattes[a] for to acomon yn but they schytte the gattes and wold nott lett hym com yn than he sawe that and sent a messonger to the gattes desyryng that som of the rewlers of the town schuld com to the gates and speke w^t^ hym but noon wylld come wherfor he retornyd backe agayne unto hys oste and soo he lyeth styll w^t^ in iiij Dewch meyll off Brugys and hys desyre ys no more but to hawe vj persones at hys wyll that ys iij of Bruges ij of Gaunte & oon of Ypre wherfor the comon pepull wold hawe

[a] See Kervyn de Lettenhove, *Histoire de Flandre*, Livre xviii.

hym full fayne sawe v or vj of the hedys be of a contrary openyon but folke that cam from Bruges sayth that they thyncke hytt schall nott be longe or they wyll lett hym in at Bruges &c. Item Syr on Fryday the xxvij day of Feverell cam passage from Dower and they saye that oon Thursday affore cam forth a passonger from Dower to Calles ward and sche was chasyd w^t^ Frensche men and drevyn in to Donkyrke[a] hawen &c. Item Syr plese hytt yow to understond that I hawe sold to Clayse Petterson and hys fellowys of Dellff[b] yowr cottes felles that cam last and they hawe cast ower iiij^xx^ reffewsse felles and the rekenyng of the sayd felles ys on the toder syde wrytten no more unto yowre masterschyppys at thys tyme but allmyghty Jhesu preserve an kepe yow Wrytten at Callez the xxix day of Fevere.

per yowre servaunt
Wylliam Cely.

Jhesu M^l^iiij^xx^iij [c]

Md: the xxviij day of Fevere anno ut suppra sold per me Wylliam Cely in the name of my masters Rechard and George Cely to Claysse Peterson, Wylliam Ardson, John Wylliamson, Deryck Johnson of Dellff iijM^l^j^c^cl Cottes pell prys le c xiiij nobulles sterlyng.

Argent. . . cxlvij^li^ ster:

Item to be receyved in redy mony the on hallff sum . . . . . } lxxiij^li^ x^s^ ster:

Item lent them be an oblygacyon to pay the xx day of August next ensewyng . . . } xxxvj^li^ xv^s^ ster:

Item lent them be anoder oblygacyon payabull the xx day of Fevere nexte . . . . } xxxvj^li^ xv^s^ ster:

Item Syr as for the lxxiij^li^ x^s^ ster: whych I schulde a receyvedd

[a] Dunkirk. [b] Delft. [c] iiij^xx^ omitted by mistake.

in hondd I hawe receyvedd therof but xx^{li} x^{s} ster: in nemyng grottes and crownys and the rest ys liij^{li} ster: whych I lent them be a byll of her hond to paye at passe for they browght but lyttull mony heder w^{t} hem becausse of trublyng be the waye w^{t} soudears of Mexymelyanys but the men ar sewer I nowzth they have bowghte here abowe xvj^{M} felles at thys tyme.

Addressed: To my worschyppffull masters Rechard and George Cely marchauntes of the Stappell at Callez at London in Martt Lane soo hitt dd.

119

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}iij

Ryght worschyppffull Syrs and my specyall good masters affter all dew recommendacyon I lowly recommend me unto yowre masterschyppys Furder more plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understond that I sent unto you at the last passage be oon Roger Kynton a letter conteynyng the rekenyng of the sale of iij $^{M li}$ j^{c}l peltes sold to Claysse Peterson and hys fellyschypp Item I sent unto yowre masterschyppys at the sayd passage be oon John Clyffton a letter of the sale made to John Delowpys and Gyesbryght van Wynsbarge of vj sarppellers & a poke fyne Cottes and I sent unto yowre masterschyppys closyd in the same letter a le[tter] of payment of the John Delowpys and Gyesbryght payabull at Ester ne[xt] conteynynge ccxlij^{li} xvij^{d} ster. &c Item Syr oder sales I hawe made non zett but I trust I schall doo schorttly here hath ben Hollo[a] . . . moo I understond wyll be schorttly I myght a sold yowre old [felles] but I wold sell som of yowre new felles w^{t} all &c Item Syr . . . ys myche adoo betwyxte the Dewk Maxymelyanys

[a] Hollanders, probably.

and sarten townys of Flaunders the Dewk hath ben affor Bruges wherfor Gaunt and Bruges and oder townys of Flaunders be afferdd of hym for they kepe strayght watche and wardd in every town dayly and they of Bruges hathe beheddyd v or vj of the dwellars of Bruges that toke Dewk part but noo man saythe nor doythe nothyng to noon Englysche man but that they may resorte too and froo as they have doon in tymes past sawyng only men ben afferdde of Frensche men for they hawe taken ij Englysche men comyng from Bruges betwyxte Donckyrck and Gravenyng[a] on ys John Eston and the toder ys oon Jamys Robard Stockers man. Item Syr on Fryday last past on Richard Awrey that was master of my lord Denmanis[b] schypp zede forthe a warfare in a schypp of hys owne and toke in merchauntes and sett them alond at Dower and at Dower toke in passage to Callez wardd agayne and as he cam to Callez wardd ij men of warre of Frensche mett w[t] hym and fawght with hym and theyr he was slayne and diversse moo of hys company they saye viij or ix persones oon whos sowlles Jhesu hawe mercy. And so on Fryday at affternonne the Frensche men browghte hem into Donkyrke hawen and Wylliam Bryerley ys in the same schypp and diversse londd men moo what they ar I can nott tell yow Item Syr understond that schyppyng ys begon at London Syr I pray God . . . may be ynowghe schyppyd to pay thys hallff zerys wages that ys [dew] at the vj day of Apryll nexte for that most be payd all off [thys] schyppyng for here ys nothyng toward hytt and allsoo [a grett] partt of the prest mony that was prestyd yn october to pay the flete w[t] most be repayed of the same for mych of hytt ys oons past but yowres ys repayd wher ffor Syr all syche goodes that comyth now at thys schyppyng moste paye sole costom at the ryvall of hytt &c. Furder more plese hytt yow to understond that Roger Wyestan of Laysetter[c] ys chosen leftenaunte for the next seson affter thys man and he to be here at Callez be the last day of Apryll &c.

[a] Dunkirk and Gravelines. [b] *Vide* Letter of March 25, 1484.
[c] Leicester.

No more unto yowre masterschyppys at thys tyme but Allmyghty Jhesu preserve yow Wrytten at Callez the xvij day of Marche.

per yowre servaunt

Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshyppffull masters Rechard and George Cely merchauntes of the stappell at Callez at London in Martt Lane Soo hit dd.

120

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}iij

The note at the end of the sale on March 24, 1483, and the reference to the coming agreement with the Flemish towns about arrests, which was concluded in September 1484, makes it certain that this Letter should be dated 1484. It is on the first day of the year, O.S.

Ryght worschyppffull and my specyall goode masters after all dewe recomendacyon had I lowly recommend me unto yowre masterschyppys Forder more plese yowre masterschyppys to understond that I hawe sold iij M^{l} of yowre cottes pelt wherof ij M^{l}v^{c} beyth of yowre vij M^{l} felles schypyd at the portt of London the x day of Junn Anno iiij^{xx}iij and the rest ys of yowre v M^{l} iiij^{c} pelt schyppyd at the portt at London the xxiiij day of Jowll Anno iiij^{xx}ij &c Syr, I wold fayne a sold moo new felles w^{t} all but I Kowde nott for ther ys grett plenty of old felles in town iij old agaynest on new and allsoo the vij M^{l} pelt schyppyd in Jun Anno iiij^{xx}iij were sorre blemeschyd as brent yn the schyp bothe tymes as they were schyppyd twyse &c Syr the reknyng of the sale of the forsayd sale of iij M^{l} peltes her affter in thys letter ys conteynyd &c Furder more plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understond that thys day owre Lady Day all the fellyschypp w. . assemlyd yn the hall and ther was my lord Dennam* and master Donsta, and master Marschall w^{t}

* Sir John Denham, Lord Denham or Dynham, Privy Councillor to Edward IV. and to Henry VII., made Lord Treasurer by the latter.

oder of the Councell that be made free of the stappell now late and soo theyr the old mayer was dyschargyd and ther was putt in alecschan of the new mayer Syr Wylliam Stocker master Yorck and Master Wymbythe and soo Syr Wylliam Stocker ys choosen mayer of the stappull for the yere forthe &c Furder more Syr plese hytt yow to understond that Gyesbryght van Wynsbarge ys com to Callez and soo hee hath taken schew to bye wull and hytt ys soo that my lord lefttenaunte of the town of Callez as thys day sent for my master lefftenaunte of the stappull schewyng unto hym in thys wyse how that sarten town dwellers of Callez hath ben at Bruges and hath bowghte wyne and oder merchaundyse the whyche ys arestyd att Newportte[a] for syche goodys that Englysche men hathe taken be the see belongyng unto men of Oostendd[b] and other plases of Flaunders wherfor my lord schewyd unto the leffetenaunt how that thes men that hath her gooddes soo arestyd at Newportte desyryth to hawe lysens to rest Gyesbryght an oder merchauntes of Bruges that be here for plege for the gooddys that ys soo arestyd at Newportte but master lyefftenaunte answeryd my lordd agayne be the avyce of the fellyschypp and sayd unto hym in thys wyse yff soo be that Gyesbryght schuld be arestyd here and trublyd hytt schuld causse at grett inconvenyens to the stappull for Gyesbryght and his fellow be the men that doth gretter fett of any marchauntes that camyth heder for the gooddes that they hawe bowght here thys zere drawyth abowe xxv M[l] li ster: wherfor yff they schuld be stoppyd ther wold come noo moo merchauntes heder the whych schuld cause a grett stopp and yff merchauntes straungers myght nott resortt heder that men myght make sale of her gooddes they cowde make noo payment unto the soudears of ther wages and allsoo schuld cause men to londd agayne syche gooddes as they were yschyppyng w[t] all and allsoo hytt was answeryd my lordd in thys wyse how that ther ys an entercourse made betwyxte the Kyng of Ynglond and the londd of Flaunders in Dewk Phyllyps days[c] and syns confermyd be Dewke

[a] Nieuport. [b] Ostend. [c] Rymer, xi. 140.

Charllys and syns that confermyd be Dewk Maxymelyanys how that any merchaunde of Ynglonde beyng free of stappull may goo sayff and a gonne sayff into Flaunders bothe hys body and gooddes at all tymes w^t^owte any interrypcyon for any hurttes doon to any man of Flaunders be see or lond be Englysche men and in lykewyse all merchauntes of Flaunders or of theke partyes comyng to Callez warde to bye stappull merchaundyse schall goo free and come free w^t^ owte any interypcyon in lykewyse. And thys entercourse ys entryd in the stappull Regester of old tyme w^t^ the whyche my lordd ys well content w^t^ that the stappell wyll send ij sadd men of the fellyschypp unto Gaunte to the Councell of Flaunders to know wheder they wyll abyd be that entercoursse or nott and soo sarton men schall be apoyntyd to goo to Gaunte w^t^ wrytyng under stapell seall for to know an answer &c but Gyesbryght ys at hys lybbarte and he byeth wull here as he hath don in tymes past &c Item Syr I have made wrytyng whych yowre masterschyppys schuld a herdd or thys tyme but ther hath noo passage goon thys xiiij day &c No more unto yowre masterschyppys at thys but allmyghty Jhesu preserve yow Wrytten at Callez on owre Lady Day Anuncyon

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Md: the xxiiij day of Marche Anno iiij^xx^iij sold per me Wylliam Cely in the name of my masters Rechard and George Cely to Gyesbryght Henryckson Jacob Gyesbryghtson Cornelys Arnoldson Deryck Jacobson of Dellf iij M^l^ cottes pelles prys le c xiiij nobulles sterlyng.

Argent . . . cxl^li^ ster:

Item the oon hallff Amountes lxx^li^ ster:
Wherof I receyved in redy mony xxxiij^li^ vj^s^ viij^d^ ster:
And lent them be a byll of her hond to paye at Sensyon marte nexte } xxxvj^li^ xiij^s^ iiij^d^ ster:
} lxx^li^ ster:

Item lent them be an oblygacyon to pay the xxiij day of September next . . . . . } xxxv^{li} ster:

Item lent them be annoder oblygacyon payabull at Cole martt nexte . . . . . } xxxv^{li} ster:

Addressed: To my worschyppffull masters Rechard and George Cely merchauntes of the stappull at Callez at London in Martt Lane soo hytt dd:

121

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}iiij

Ryght worschyppfull Syrs and myn specyall goode masters after all d[ew] recommendacyon hadd I lowly recommend me unto yowre masterschyppys Furder more lettyng yowre masterschyppys hawe knowlegge th[at] I hawe receyved a letter lattly from yow beryng date the xj day of March be the tenour wherof I understond that yowre m[aster]schypis hathe receyved ij letters from me conteynyng the twoo sallys made. . . . Claysse Peterson and the toder to John Delowpys and allsoo that yowre masterschyppys hath receyved John Delowpys letter of payment &c. Item Syr I sent unto [yow] thys passage be Raff Lemyngton a letter conteynyng a sale made the . . . day of Marche to Gyesbryght Henryckson &c. Item Syr I understond [be] yowre sayd letter that yowre masterschyppys be purpossyd t . . . now at thys tyme xx sarpllers wull Syr yf ze cowde hawe goode schyppys . . . were nott yll don and yowre masterschyppys schyppyd somwhat more s . . . be well fornyschyd w^{t} mony here for to paye the Costom and subsede allsoo Syr I thynck as far as my symppull reson geyff me hytt ys more sewer schyppyng now than schall be hereafter for dyversse c . . . &c. Syr as for old Henleys wyddowe sche hath

ben sowyr syk a grette whyle but sche ys yett alive and sche fortune to dye I schall send yow wordd as schorttly as I can &c. Furder more plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understond that I wrate yow a clawsse yn the letter that Raff Lemyngton bryngyth yow how that the lefftenaunte and the fellyschypp here hath hadd comenycacyon w^{t} my lord lefftenaunt of Callez for the entercourse betwyxte Ynglond and Flaunders and soo my lordd ys owre goode lordde yn all matters and soo oon Satterday the xxvj day of Marche the fellyschyp here apoyntyd v persones of the stappull to goo as ymbassutt for the stappell to Dewke Phyllypp and hys councell of Flaunders and thes men be poyntyd to goo Thomas Amerys, Constabull, Robardd Addlyn, Wylliam Bentham, Wylliam Dalton, John Ynge, and on Tewysday nexte they schall departe theder warddes and they schall hawe power of my lordd and allso of the stappell under seall to have comenycacyon w^{t} the concell of Flaunders and to conclude yf they can to gett a sawegard under the seall of Flaunders that noo merchaunt of the stappull schall be trubullyd yn Flaunders for any male fett doon be any oder englysche man to any person of Flaunders w^{t} owte hytt be for tresspasse be hym don and yn lyke wyse my lord lefftenaunte of Callez schall gewe a sawegard to all merchauntes of Flaunders comyng to Callez to bye stappull merchaundyse that noo man schall doo nor saye to them nor her gooddys at Callez nor yn the merchesse for noo male fett doon be any Flemynge to any Englysche man w^{t} owte hytt be for tresspasse be himsellfe[a] Item Syr plese hytt yow to wytt that I send unto yowre masterschyppys be the brynger of thys letter whoo is name ys James Jarfford atorney for Steven Gybson mercer of London sellyd yn a canvas bagg xxiiij^{li} ster: wherof ys yn carowlles grottes xxiij^{li} ster: and iij Angelettes wrappyd yn paper xx^{s} &c. Item Syr plese hyit to under that hytt hath plesyd the fellyschyp to chese Thomas Noneley and me collectors for thys quarter ensuyng &c. No more

[a] This was arranged, separately, with both Maximilian and the Council of Flanders in the following September. Rymer xii., 248, 249.

unto yowre masterschyppys at thys tyme but allmyghty Jhesu preserve yow Wrytten at Callez the xxvij day of Marche.

per yowre servaunt

Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worschyppffull masters Rechard and George Cely merchauntes of the stappull at Callez at London yn Martt Lane soo hitt dd.

122

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}iiij

Ryght worschyppffull Syrs & my specyall goode masters Affter all dew recomendacyon hadd I lowly recomend me unto yowre masterschyppys Furder more plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understond that I hawe sold to Adryan Wylliamson & hys fellows of Layth[a] xv^{c} of yowr Cottes felles schyppyd in Jowlle Anno M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}ij whych sale ys conteynyd here after in thys letter Furder more lyke hytt yowre masterschyppys to wytt that I hawe receyved a letter from yow beryng date the second day of Marche and in the same letter the nomber and wayght of yowre wull schyppyd at thys tyme and allso in the sayd letter yowre warant of xx^{s} of the sarplar conteynyng xxvij^{li} ster. Item Syr I hawe receyved anoder letter from yowr masterschyppes beryng date the ij day of Aprell the whych letter I hawve redd and well understond and acordyng to yowre sayd letter I schall demene myselfe that schall be to yowre plessur of the whych I schall wryte yow in my nexte letter more at large &c Furder more plese hytt yow to understond that thys day the x day of Aprell the wull flete came to Callez all in saffte thanckyd be God ther be Frensche men on the see but they sturryd nott at thys seson and wee knowe noon oder wyse here but wee schall hawe warre be lond

[a] Leyden.

LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

w^t^ Fraunce thys somer &c. Syr I wold awrytt yowre masterschyppys of moo matters but my space was but schortt and the passage tarryd nott but zede att the same tyde that hytt came from Dower but I schall wrytt yow more att large w^t^ the nexte passage &c. No more unto yowre masterschyppys at thys tyme but Allmyghty Jhesu preserve yow Wrytten at Callez le x day of Aprell &c.

per yowre servaunt
Wylliam Cely.

Md: the iiij day of Aprell anno ut supra sold per me Wylliam Cely for and in the name of my masters Rechard & George Cely to Adryan Wylliamson Deryck Deryckson Garrad Laurenson Garrad Stevenson Henryck Ottson Claysse Doo & Gyesbryght Moresson of Laythe xv^c^ Cottes peltes prys le cxiiij nobulles, Argent	lxx^li^ ster:
Item receyved in Lond in nemyng grottes . . .	xxxv^li^ ster:
Item lent them be ther oblygacyon payabull at Senschyon martte nexte sum	xxxv^li^ ster:

Addressed: To my worshyppffull masters Rechard and George Cely merchauntes of the Stappull at Callz at London in Martt Lane soo hit dd:

On the Dorse, in a different handwriting:

Item Delyvyred unto John Veneke yn fyne gowllde to make a Ryng for my wyffe xxvi penny wayghgh d q^a^ sum^a^ lvj^s^ Sum^a^ liij s. vj^d^

[a] Crossed out.

123

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}iiij

Ryght worschyppffull masters after all dew . . . . . yowre masterschypp furder more plese hytt yow . . . . . wull flete aryved at Callez the x day of Aprell . . . . and the most parte of yowre wull ys londyd and t . . t . . . . furder more Syr I understond be yowr wrytyng that Petter . . . . hathe ben w^{t} yowre masterschyppes and schewed [yow] howe hee w . . . fynd yowre sewerte for syche wulles that John Delowpys schall take of yowres at Callez Syr yf the sowertes be of substaunce and abydyng th[en] I wold avyse yow to take hem or elles nott for what world wee schall hawe w^{t} Flaunders I can nott say I feyr me they wyll breke w^{t} us for the men that were sent be the stappell to the lordys Gaunte to labur a safgard for all the fellyschypp of the stappull be come home agayne da . . lesse for they were answeryd how that Flaunders hath susteynyd ma[ny] grett hurttes don be Englysche men and noo restytuschon made agayne wherfor they can susteyn noo lenger and as for any sawegars they wyll gewe non wherto thys schall growe I can nott saye wherfor Syr yf ze can hawe goode sewerte of Peter Bayledelett hytt were well doon what sum ever fortune here after and Syr I pray yow to wryte me in what case Pe[ter] hath sett yowre masterschyppys for syche that I delyver John Delowppys here for Wyllykyn John Delowppy man ys here and he tellyth me that John Delowpys hath a letter from youre masterschyppys of the same matter but I schall delyver hym noo wull tell I have wrytyng from yow agayne how be hytt the man ys goode I nowythe were we yn sartente of pes betwyxte Flaunders and us but Syr yf ze com be sett sewer of yowre mony theyr hytt were a goode way for ther ys noo merchaunte that comyth here that payth redy mony for any naw wull that he byeth here &c. furder Syr a tochyng the matter that yowre masterschypp wrote me of Thomas Whyte meser in serten Syr I spake w^{t} hym and hee dynedd at home wyth

my nostes how be hytt he knew nott me and ther he schewyd how that that matter ley betwyxte anoder man and yow how be hytt he sayd sche hadd yow more in fawer than the toder man but Syr ze hawe hys good wyll &c. Item Syr Wylliam Sallford ys come and I spake w^t^ hym and wellcomyd hym and he tellyd me how that yowre masterschypp and that oder gentyll woman wheyr at apoynt yn that matter of the whych I was ryght gladd and soo he sayd hee was but he speryd me noo oder questyans nott zett and Syr hytt ys sayd here be many persones here how that ze sewer to her w^t^ the whych . . . . well content & ryght glad therof and Syr . . . . that knowyth yow both merchauntes and sowdeers . . . . were yow grettly sayng yf that gentell woman . . . . ub . . tt [t]hat sche ys ze were wurthy to hawe her and . . . . any makyng of serche of yowre delynges here I trow ther ys noo man that makyth any yff the[y] doo they nede goo noo farther than the bokes yn the tesery wher they may fynde that yowre sallyz made w^t^yn lesse than thys zere amountes above ij M^l^ li. ster.: where that the person that laboryd for to abe afore yow he & hys broder hadd nott yn thys towne thys twellwe monthes the oon hallff of that &c. Furder more Syr yowre masterschypp wrytyth me yf theyr were any goode gaston wyne here ze wold hawe a tonne therof Syr here ys noo goode wyne to gett for noo mony as yett but I understond ther schall come from Bruges som w^t^in x or xij days whereof I trow I schall gett a tonne or a pype at leste whych I schall send yow &c. Item Syr I sent unto yow at the last passage be oon Thomas Bland of Boston a letter wherin ys wrytten the sale made to Adryan Wylliamson & hys fellyschypp of Laythe[a] of xv c cottes pelts prys le c xiiij nobulles argent lxx^li^ ster.: &c. Item Syr thys same day the xiiij day of Aprell ther cam iij passongers from Dower and ther was ij grett schyppys of war of Frensche men chasyd them into the hawen mowthe and the passagers hadd had but a myle to a ron farder they had be taken and owre men of warre lyeth all yn Cambrez[b] &c

[a] Leyden. [b] Cambrai. The 'men of warre' are not ships.

No more unto yowre masterschypp at thys tyme but Allmyghty Jhesu preserve yow Wrytten at Callez the xiiij day of Aprell.

per yowre servaunt

Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my worshypffull masters[a] R[a] George Cely merchaunt of the stappell at Callez at London in Martt Lane soo hytt dd.

124

Jhesu M[l]iiij[c]iiij[xx]iiij

Ryght worschyppfull masters affter all dew recomendacyon I lowly recomend me unto yowre masterschyppys Furder more plese hytt yowre masterschyppes to understond that I sent unto yow be Joysse the brynger of thys letter selyd in a canvas bagge xl[li] sterlyng and allsoo I sent unto yowre masterschyppys w[t] the last passage be oon John Bwrne draper of Callez in a leddern bagge oder xl[li] sterlyng Syr as zett I can gett noo more sterlyng mony &c Furder more Syr plese hytt yow to understond that Wyllykyn John Delowppys man es come ower in to Inglond with thys pass[age] Wherfor I thyncke he wyll comen w[t] yow for yowre Cottes wull S[yr] I wyll avyse yow to graunte hym noon oder wyse than to pay h[im] at Callez acordyng to the ordenaunce or the wull passe the towne for hytt ys knowne well I nowzth here that Wyllykyn comyth ower for noon oder thyngs than to make bargaynys w[t] serten persones in Inglond for sych wulles as they hawes at Callez and allso the delyng of dy[vers] men yn Inglond w[t] John Delowpys ys knowne wherfor ther wyll be a gr[ett] serche made schorttly and forfettes schall be lewellyd for hytt ys known well here that Peter Bale and Delytt answeryth at days in Inglond for myche of the wull that John Delowpys byethe

[a] The 's' and 'R' crossed out.

here but as for yowre delynges knowyth noon man w^{t} owte they serche Peter Balys bokes as I thyncke grett serche schall be made for the forfett ys lewellyd oon som persones all redy but they be nott zett openly namyd and as for yowre wull I trust to Godd hytt schall be sold and hawe redy mony for hytt w^{t} yn thys month for I am yn a goode waye for hytt all redy w^{t} goode men and to paye as they fett hytt and to fett hytt w^{t}in a month Robard Legayneard & Collard Messedawzth be the men No more unto yowre masterschyppys at thys tyme but Allmyghty Jhesu preserve yow Wrytten at Callez the xxviij day of Aprell

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Item Syr plese hytt yow to understond that old Henley ys wyddowe hath beyn specheless thys daye & a hallfe and sche ys nott lyckely to leve a day tyll an endd wherfor here ys oon John Garnett sowddar and he hath ben w^{t} me and schewyd me howe that hee ys bownden w^{t} yong Henley to Harry Franck in an oblygacyon of lx^{li} ster: to paye after Henley moder desseicyth and he saythe when he was at London hee spake to Harry Francke of the same oblygacyones and Harry Francke tellyd hym how he hadd made a letter of atorney to yowre masterschypp for to receyve the sayd lx^{li} wherfor John Garnett sayth hee hath gootten as myche goodes yn hys hondes of old Henleys wyddows as schall draw the som of lx^{li} ster: for the whyche he saythe he wold the oblygacyones were sent ower that the sayd gooddes myght answer hytt for hys dyscharge &. Item Syr I hawe sold ij sarplers of yowre fyne Cottes wull that cam last wherof the rekenyng of the sale ys clossyd in thys letter I hadd lycens of the leftenaunt to make sale as for so myche as sone as hytt was awarddyd.

Addressed: To my worshyppful masters Rechard and George Cely merchauntes of the stappell at Callez at London in Martt Lane soo hytt dd:

125

Christus 1486

Ryght worshipfull Sir I recommaunde me unto you like it you to witte that [I] purveid at my beyng in Holond samon of the Mase of the whech all is not comyn but sithen it is so that I have but on furkyn comyn I send it to you be Thomas Bernard servaunte w[t] John Reynold mercer to delyver you prayng you that it will plese you for opon it and take out thereof the on half for yourself & that other half that it will plese you to put sum pese of wode in the seyd furkyn because of bressyng of the fyshe that shall be left therin that other half & that it may be sent to my Jone & this letter therwithe ether be carte of any go to Leyc'[a] or elles by the carears of Derby that they may cary it upon horsbake[b] & that I besech ys in as yely hast as may be plese it ye to understond that Will Cely told me that ye had no knowlege from me for payment of the xx[li] ye of your curtesy delyvered unto Will Lèmster my servaunte to my gret marvel Sir ye shal be acertened for treuth contynent upon the knowlege of your curtesy and kynd delyng to me of the seid xx[li] I made xx[li] be exchaunge and sent ye the letter of payment with a pronosticacion & an almynake of the makyng of master John Laste & this I sent ys all bounden & seled togeder be Will Drynklow & sithen Will Cely told me I delyverd unto hym the seconde letter of payment to send over unto ye like as I have writen to ye in a letter sent over at Shorfftyd the whech I truste ye have receyved Item if my other samon hade comyn I entended to have done other but I pray to excuse to my good marsters that it is no better howbeit it swam sith Candlemasse

[a] Dalton's mother lived at Leicester. Perhaps Jone was his wife.
[b] Packhorses, the more usual method of carrying goods.

Will Cely can tell you mor than I dar writ Jhesu kepe you Writ at Calles the xij day of Marche.

your Wylliam Dalton.

Addressed: To the worshippful George Cely merchaunt of the staple dwellyng in Marke Lane sō it dd.
Londz.

126

Rychard Cely the younger

This and the following Letter belong to 1487, a year of the appearance of the Sweating Sickness possibly referred to in the latter. The two Letters are about the same date.

Riught welbelovyd brother I recomend me unto yow & and to my syster hyt ys so that her ys Dodlays mane the bochar of Eschepe and I hawe p^{d} hym aull the mony that I hawhe zeyt I how hym xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d} wheche I pray yow pay hym and send me a nobyll be Tomas Wade the iij oxsyn for the margett comys to xxxv^{s} that ys xv^{s} xx^{d} a paye at my comyng a Wednysday I wantt a lyttyll fardell w^{t} ij craddyll clothys a tyn basson w^{t} oder geyr zeffe hytt hapyd to be layd in yowr bott I troste hytt wylbe saffe I wndyrstonde be Adlynton at Mydwyntter ys com God ryd ws of hym. Send me a byll of yowr mynd I pray yow.

per Rychard Cely.

B. e. xiij

De hac litera allocatur per auditorem vj^{s} viij^{d}

B. e. xiij

Memorandum quod scrutetur bene pro istis xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d} solvendis et inquiratur utrum solvantur per Georgium Cely vel non.

Dodlay de Estchepe pro Ryc. Cely.

Addressed: To my brother George Cely.

On the Dorse: Broder I recomawnd be unto yow and to my.
B. e. xiij. xiij.

127

Rychard Cely the younger

Ruight welbelovyd brother I recomend me unto yow and my syster in as hartty whysse as I can Syr I hawe ressayvyd a letter be Adlynton he brynges you the same I wndyrstond hyt ryught welle &c. I longe for to heyr how ze havhe pwrwhayed for Wylliam Mydwynter zeffe I had spockyn w^{t} yow er ze zeyd to London whe myght a made a c^{li} w^{t} my brother Awheray Syr I pray yow macke hym a byll in bothe hour namys of hys mony to pay hym at Brogys as ze & he cane agre for he had never the byll at ze tecke me ze rembyr whe hade xl^{li} at howr comynge and I hade xx^{li} more wheyr of zeyde xij^{li} and mor for carryayge of wholl I pray yow macke hys byll of lx^{li} ster: Syr I whowde awysse my syster & yow to com agayne into Essex for I wndyrstonde thay dy sor in London.

per yowr brother
Rychard Cely.

Addressed: Unto my brother George Cely at London in Martte Lane.

On the Dorse:

Payments for Malens[a] the last day of August Anno iiij^{xx}vij

Item for xxiiij akers ad ix^{d} ob le aker nettis and all	xix^{s} viij^{d}
Item for breke to elles	xx^{s}
Item delyverd be my wiffe to Speryng for the Margett	xxx^{s}

[a] Molands, George's Essex property.

128

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}vij

Ryght worschyppppffull Syrs and my reverent masters aftyr all dew recommendacyon precedyng I lowly recommend mee unto yowre masterschyppes Fyrdyr more plese hytt yowre masterschyppes to understond that I hawe receyved of John Delowppys uppon payment of the byll the whych ys sent me be Adlyngton but iij^{c} li. fl: wherof I hawe payd to Gnyott Strabant iiij^{xx}iiij^{li} vj^{s}. vj^{d} fl: Item I hawe made yow ower be exchaunge w^{t} Benyngne Decasonn lomberd an c iiij^{xx} nobulles ster: payabull at usuance I delyverd hit at a xj^{s} ij^{d} ob. fl. le nobull hit amounteth—c^{li} xvij^{s} vj^{d} fl: Item I hawe made yowre ower be exchaunge yn lyke wyse w^{t} Jacob van de Base iiij^{xx}ix nobulles & vj^{s} ster: payabull at London at usaunce yn lyke wyse I delyverd hit at a xj^{s} ij^{d} fl. for every nobull ster: hit amounteth fl.—l^{li} fl. and the rest of yowre iij^{c} li. remayns styll by me for I can make yow over no more at thys seson for here is no moo that wyll take any mony as yett. And mony goyth now uppon the bursse at a xj^{s} iij^{d} ob. the nobull and non odyr mony but nemyng grotes, crownys, Andrew gylders & reynysche gylders and the exchaunge goyth ever the lenger warsse and wars Item Syr I send yow enclossyd yn thys sayd letter the ij fyrst letters of the payment of the exchaunge above wrytten Benyngne Decasonns letter ys derectyd to Gabryell Defuye & Petyr Sanly Geneways & Jacob van de Base ys derectyd to Anthony Corsy & Marcy Strossy spaynardes yn Lomberd Strete yee schall here of them &c Item Syr John Lowppys long sore aftyr yowre comyng that he myght mak a bergeyne w^{t} yow for yowre wulles he desyryth to hawe ij sarplers to prove hytt bye tyll yowre masterschyppes come he sayth yee schall be to far owte of the weye w^{t} owte yee gree & bergeyne togeder Syr hytt ys well don that ye tak yowr markett betyme for diversse consederacions &c allsoo the

margett wax very slack here &c. Item Syr plese hytt yowre masterschyppys to understond that I hawe sold yowre felles to Jacob Gyesbryghtson & John Doo of Dellf sum vij^{c} felles the res . . . reffewce prys le c xvj nobulles v^{s} ster: sum xxxix^{li} . . . the whych to be p^{d} be a byll of ther handdes yn thys bam . . . Item Syr as tochyng the iij^{c} li. fl. receyved be me now of be Joh[n Lowpys] I hawe wrytten hytt uppon the byll and hath the byll bye me scy . . . how be hitt John sayth be hys boke thys byll ys p^{d} owte & mor to ffor he sayth ther was p^{d} yow yn Ynglond be Allvard uppon the same byll the vj day of Apryll clvj^{li} xvij^{s} vj^{d} fl. besyde the l^{li} ster: tak up of Alverd at x^{s} ix^{d} but he sayth at yowre comyng yee and he schall close that rekenyng And Syr I promysyd hym to a delyverd hym ij sarplers of yor wull tyll yowr comyng and he schuld mak mee a byll payabull at yowre plessyrs for the same at the pryce of the place but Syr I can nott hawe yowr wull yett awarddyd for I hawe doo cast owte a sarpler the whych ys poyntyd be the lefftenaunte to be casten owte to wardd the sortt bye as the ordenaunce ys now made that the lefftenaunte schall poynt the warddyng sarplers of every mans wull the whych sarpler that I hawe casten owte ys n^{o} xxiiij and theryn ys found be Wylliam Smyth paker a lx myddyll flessys and hytt ys a very gruff wull and soo I hawe causyd Wylliam Smyth prevely to cast owte anoder sarpler n^{o} viij and packyd up the wull of the fyrst sarpler yn the sarpler of n^{o} viij for thys last sarpler ys fayr wull I nowzth and therfor I muste understond how many be of that sortte and the nombyr of the [*sic*] for they must be pakkyd agayne hytt ys a very reddleyr and grett flesys &c Item syr yff yowre masterschypps hawe p^{d} yowre marke of the sarpler I pray yow send me the warant from the solyster that hytt myght be deductyd uppon yowre custom & subsede here &c. No more unto yowre masterschyppes at thys tyme but allmyghty Jhesu preserve & kepe yow and all yowres long yn goode helth and prossperyte for allmyghty God resettythe sore here yn Callez and the marchys w^{t} thys grett plage of syckness[a] that

[a] Was this the sweating sickness, the disease peculiarly fatal to Englishmen?

raynyth I beseche of Hys mercy to serce hytt Wrytten at Callez the xij jor de September.

be yowre servaunte

Wylliam Cely.

Syr the brynger of thys letter ys John Saunders.

Addressed: To my ryght worschyppfull mastyrs Richard and George Cely merchauntes of the stappell of Callez at London yn Martt Lane so ytt dd:

129

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}vij

Ryght worschyppffull Syr and my reverent mastyrs aftyr all dew recommendacion precedynge I lowly recommend mee unto yowre mastyrschyppes Fydyr more plese hytt yowre mastyrschyppys to understond that I hawe receyved yowr lettyr datyd at London the fyrst day of September be the tenour ther of I understond yowre mastyrschyppes hath tak up be exchaunge of John Raynold mercer lx^{li} ster: payabull the xxv day of thys month & of Deago Decastron spaynard odyr lx^{li} ster: payabull the xxvj day of the same month the whych schall be both content at the day and as for mastyr Lewys More lomberd ys p^{d} and I hawe the byll hys atorney ys a wranglyng felow he wold non odyr mony but nemyng grotes &c. Item Syr I understond be yowr sayd letter that yowr masterschyppes hath receyved noo wrytyng from mee syns Addlynton was here wherof I marvell for I wrate ij letters to yow whyle I was at Bruges specyfying of divers matters of Flaunders the ton was sent from Callez be Jamys Jarfford mercer the toder be Peryman pakker of Clyfte[a] wulles he ys logyd at the Crosse Keye[b] Syr I hawe ben at Callez thys ix days and abowte the latter endd of thys weke I purpose to Brugewardde agayne and I leve Thomas Colton & Roberd Hubberd atorneys tyll I come and I schall leve w^{t}

[a] Probably Clive, Cleeve, or Bishop's Cleeve, in Gloucestershire.

[b] A house called 'Causkey,' probably the Cross Keys, stood at the corner of St. Nicholas and Great Friar Street, Calais.

Thomas Colton vj^{li} fls: for yowre mastyrschypp yff ye com and as for yowre black box I leve hytt w^{t} Thomas Graunger Syr as for goyng ynto Flaundyrs ys goode I nowyth as yett but all the jebardy ys yn comyng home for and yff owre men of war take ther fyscher as I feyr they wyll ther wyll be many Englysche men stoppyd yn Flaundyrs and allsoo the towne of Donkyrk ys nott content and that wee schall well know yff soo be that they mete w^{t} any merchauntes of substaunce and Syr as for a lettyr of atorney under the stappell sell I can hawe non w^{t} owte I bryng a letter of atorney from yowre mastyrschyppes owte of Inglond for yowre mastyrschypes hath ben at Callez diversse tymes syns I was entryd yowr atorney wherfor yowr presence hath deffetyd that entre and a lettyr of atorney ys nedfull now at thys tyme. Item Syr receyved of John Saunders a letter wheryn enclossyd ij letters of payment one of Benyngne Decason derectyd to Gabryell Desurte & Peter Sauly genovo. . . conteynyng lx^{li} ster: Item Anoder letter of Jacob van de Base derectyd to Anthony Corsy & Marcy Strossy spaynarddes conteynyng xxix^{li} xix^{s} iiij^{d} ster: &c. Item Syr yowre wull ys awarddyd be the sarpler that I cast owte last &c. Item Syr thys same day yowre masterschypp ys alectyd & apoyntydd here be the Courtt oon of the xxviij the whych schall asyste the mayer of the stappell now at thys parliament tyme where som ever hytt be holden and to labore sarten matters for the place wherof ys ynstruccyons sent to the mayer be wryttyng &c. Item Syr I send yow enclossyd yn thys letter a byll of the copy of John Delowppys boke of syche parcelles as he sayth he hath p^{d} to see yff yowre rekenyng and hys agree. No more unto yowre mastyrschypp at thys tyme but allmyghty Jhesu preserve yow Wrytten at Callez the xviij jor de September.

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my ryght worschyppful master
George Cely merchaunt of the
stappell of Callez at London yn
Martt Lane so ytt dd:

On the Dorse, in a different handwriting (Rich. Cely's?):

William Cely promysid to pay to { John Reynolds Moer . . } lx^{li} st : { Dygo de Castro Spanyerd . } lx^{li} ster :

takyn up by exchaunge of theym.

Item the seid William hath paid to the Attorney of Master Lewys de More his dutee & receyvid his bill.

Item delyverd to William Cely—

{ a letter of payment of Benygne Decason conteyning lx^{li}
{ a letter of payment of Jacob van de Basse conteyninge xxix^{li} xix^{s} iiij^{d}

130

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}vij

Ryght worschyppfull Syrs and my reverent mastyrs afftyr all dew recomendacion preceding I lowly recomend me unto yowr masterschyppes Fyrdyr plese hytt yowr masterschyppys to understond that the world ys here nowe very caswell for ther ys many wayns laden w^{t} Englysche mennys gooddys now arestyd at Ostend & at oder dyversse placys & noo gooddes may passe throw as yett noo ways for Englysch men hath taken many of ther fyscher men whych causeth here a grett rombur but wee understond as many as hath sengler safcondutes ther gooddes schall be delyverd & lett passe throw but as for the generall they wyll nott obeye for they anull hytt saying that the Englysche schyppes forffetyd hytt when they departed owte of Selond[a] they beyng under arest wherefor the generall standyth in non affecte and soo many as be here havyng noo sengler safcondute ar in jeberdy wherfor Syr I pray yow that I may hawe in as goodely haste as may be yowr letter atorney under seall autetyc that I may be yn asewerte be the menys of yowre safcondute as yowre aturney for safcondutes ar now put yn ure &c Item Syr as for yowr mony I hawe made

[a] Zealand.

ower as yett but xxx^{li} ster: with John Etwell mercer at a xj^{s} & iij monthys thys rombur causyth that noo man dar charge here no more as yett & as for heryng I hawe ben at Cam [a] diversse tymes the roue ys at ix^{li} x^{s} & yett non to gett yn regard but ther ys wrack I nowzth & viij^{li} the last & soo ther ys a schypp at Sclewce [b] that goyth to Callez callyd Rumbold Wylliamson wherein I hawe leyd yow iiij last heryng iij wrack & on rooue the wrack cost viij^{li} & the roue ix^{li} the whych I trust to God schall come full well to Callez for Syr Jamys Tyrrell [c] hath gooddes in the same schyppe &c. Item Syr ther ys a grett rombur at Gaunt the cheyff of the town be com & fledd to Bruges I fere mee Gaunt wyll be Frensche schortly &c. No more unto yowre masterschyppes at thys tyme but allmyghty Jhesu preserve yow Wrytten at Bruges the xxixth day of October.

per yowr servaunt
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my ryght worshyppfull mastyrs Rechard & George Cely merchauntes of the Stappell of Callez at London in Martt Lane
So itt dd:

131

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}vij

Ryght worschyppfull Syrs and my reverent mastyrs afftyr all dew recommendacion precedyng I lowly recommend me unto yowre mastyrschyppis Fyrddyr more plese hytt yowre mastyrschyppis to understond that I am comon to Callez yn saffte thanckyd be allmyghty Godd for I was never yn soo grett jebardy comyng owte of Flaundyrs yn my lyffe for men awarre

[a] Perhaps Cadsand.
[b] Sluys.
[c] Sir James Tyrrell, a trusted servant to Edward IV., Richard III., and Henry VII. Executed 1502 for conspiracy with the Earl of Suffolk, and alleged to be guilty of the murder of Edward V. and the Duke of York.

lyinge be the waye waytyng for Englysche men & alsoo I and my cumpany was arestyd ij days at Dunckyrke[a] but for Syr Jamys Tyrrells sak wee were lett goo & soo syr the world goyth marvyllyusly in Flaundyrs now for hytt ys open warre betwyxte Gaunte & the Kynge of Romayns & syr as for makyng over of yowre mony syns thys trubbull begonn I cowde nott mak over a peny savyng an xlviij^{li} st: whereof I schall send you the bylles at the nexte passage but Syr John Delowppis schewyd mee at my departyng that I schuld wryte unto yowr mestyrschyppis to understond wheder there schall be any jebardy to bryng warys owte of the est partyes yn to Ynglond now from hensforth or nott as he supposyth that that acte of the contrary schall be put yn susspence for dyversse causys wherfor syr he avysyth yow to bestowe yowre mony yn grosse warys now betymys at thys Barow martt yn sych warys as yowre mastyrschyppis thynckyth wyll be best at London wheder hytt be in madder wax or fustyans but I trow madder be best and soo be that ye wyll Gomers de Sore schall bye hytt for yore mastyrschyppis & schyppyd hytt yn spaynysch schyppis yn hys owne name for John Delowppis & hee ar purposyd to bye myche madder to send yn to Ynglond and yff soo be that hit fallyth to puffe ther wyll be goode doon uppon madder yff hytt be bowght betymes & John Delowppis sayth yff yowre masterschyppis wyll he wull bestowe yowre mony as well as hys owne & he sayth that that ys the best ways to make over yowre mony for the exchaunge ys ryght nowght. No more unto yowre mastyrschyppis at thys tyme but Allmyghty Jhesu preserve yow Wrytten at Callez the xix day of November.

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my ryght worschyppffull mastyrs
Richard and George Cely merchauntes of the Stappell of Callez
at London yn Mart Lane
So yit dd:

[a] Dunkirk.

On the Dorse, in another handwriting (George Cely's?):

George Cely
Rychard per Olowe
Awerey per Stewen
George per Pont
Christoffer per George

In another handwriting (Rich : Cely's?):

Shewid by this letter that Wylliam Cely proposith to sende over a letter of payment of xlviij^{li} st : at the next passage

132

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}vij

Ryght worschyppfull Syrs and my reverent mastyrs aftyr all dew recomendacion hadd I lowly recomend me unto yowr mastyrschyppys &c. Item Syr plese hytt yowre mastyrschyppys to understond that I sent unto yowr masterschyppis be Wylliam Smyth wull packer a letter where yn was enclossyd ij letters of payment the whyche I truste yee hawe receyved & syr as for all oder thynges ys as yowr mastyrschypp leffte hytt whych I thyncke ye schall nott repent for I fere me of Flaundyrs hytt staundyth marvelyusly w^{t} Bruges for the worschyppfull merchauntes of the town hadd lever than myche goode they were owte of the town for they loke every owre when the comens of the town schall ryse and rewle agaynest the Romayns kynge for they hawe ben upp onys or twyse allredy but they hawe ben pesyd be fayr menys and the kynge lyeth styll yn Bruges and wold hawe the gydyng of the town but the Comyns wyll nott suffur hym and soo he hath sent Phelypp Mounsyr [a] & the byschopp of Luke [b] yn to Braband for

[a] Philippe, fifth son to Louis I. of Savoy, who succeeded as Philippe II. in 1496 and died 1497. In his younger days, being without any lands, he was known merely as Philippe Monsieur, and served both France and Burgundy.

[b] Liège. Jean IX. de Horn, who succeeded the murdered Louis de Bourbon.

men what schall com theroff God knowyth but all the lorddes of the land takyth the kynges parte &c. Item Syr plese hytt yow to understond that Syr Jamys Tyrrell hath ben at Bruges and hath spoken w^t^ the Kynge of Romayns diversse tymes and the Kynge made Syr Jamys grett chere and soo dydd the town of Bruges and all odyr towns of Flaunddyrs that he cam throwe as grett chere as any man myght hawe and soo hytt ys thowth yf the Kyng of Romayns maye subdew Gaunte & rewle Flaunders as withyn schortt space wee thynke he schall or elles muste flee hys weye owte of the contrey or be destroyed that he wull graunte owre sovereyn lordd kynge all thynges that he wyll leffully desyre for to have pese w^t^ us for the contrey wold gladdly hawe pese w^t^ us for as now we nor they dar nott resort to nor froo w^t^ saffcondite nor oderwyse for Harold Staunton, Edmund Knyght, Nycollz Taylor, mercer they hath ben at Barow Martt and yn ther comyng homward from the Martt at Slewce[a] they ben taken prisoners & leyd yn the castell of Slewce & lyeth styll there and hath doon thys iij wekes and nott lyckly to come schorttly w^t^ they mych mony for ther rannsom. Item Syr my lordd of sent Jonys[b] comaundyth hym harttly unto yowr masterschyppys & he sayth he longe sore to see yow and hys mynd was for to aben yn Ynglond long or thys but the Danys[c] ar on the see & every day afore Callez hawen wherffor hee dar nott aventure to take passage Syr my lord sayth he marvell that ye wryte hym noo letters he sayth had noo word from yowr mastyrschyppis syns he departed owte of Ynglond wherfor he feryth hym yee schuld tak som displesyr w^t^ hym or w^t^ som of hys. Item Syr thys same day ys oon com from Bruges and he sayth ther ys an ymbassett sent from Bruges & from Ipur[d] unto Gaunte for to make the pesee betwyxte the Kyng of Romayns & them whyche ys thowzte they schall conclude &

[a] Sluys.

[b] Sir John Weston.

[c] There had been more or less maritime war with the Danes, partly owing to disputes about the Iceland trade. Peace was formally concluded in 1489 (Rymer, xii. 374).

[d] Ypres.

that doon ther schall an imbasett com from thens yn to Ynglond yn as possybull hast as may be to make a goode pese as I trust to Godd schall be who ever preserve yow Wrytten at Callez the xxij day of Jenevere.

By yowr servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my ryght worschyppfull mastyrs Rechard and George Cely merchauntes of the Stappell of Callez at London in Martt Lane so ytt dd:

133

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}vij

Ryght worschyppffull Syrs and my reverent mastyrs aftyr all dew recommendacion precedyng I lowly recommend me unto yowre mastyrschyppys Fyrdyr more plese hytt yowre mastyrschyppes to understond that I hawe receyved yowr letter datyd at London the xviij day of Jenyvere the whych I doo well underston and as tochyng John Delowppys I hawe wrytten hym acordyng to the tenour of yowr letter but the ceson ys syche at Bruges now that noo man there hath noo leyser to goo abowght any thynges perteynynge merchaundyse for viij dais longe the gates of Bruges were schytt & noo man sufferyd to com yn nor owte & evyr syns Candyll messe evyn all the comoners of Bruges hath ben yn harnesse & kepe the markett place & they hawe sett the Kyng of Romayns owte of hys place & put all hys men from hym & kepeth hym under ward but they saye they wyll doo hym noo bodyly hurtt and they hawe taken diversse that were rewlers abowte hym whych men thyncke they hawe or schall suffer deth & many of hys lorddys ben fledd and the cheyffe rewlers of Gaunte be com to Bruges and soo they wyll playnly hawe pese w^{t}

Fraunce and to be under the abesaunce of the Kynge of Fraunce yff the town of Bruges wold be agreabull to the samee but as yett they be nott agreed amongyst hemsellfe wherfor they hawe sent ynto Braband & ynto Holond & Selond that everyche of thes contreys doo send to Bruges serten wysemen w[t] full auctoryte of ther contrey for to coomen & talke w[t] the Gauntnersse & them and that maye take syche wayes & conclucion amongyst them as they can dryve be reson moste benyffycyall for them & ther contreys but they ar utterly determenyd that the Romayns Kynge schall rewle noo longger amongyste them for all redy they hawe dischargyd all the old wytt[a] of Bruges the whych was sett yn be the Kyng and made a new wytt and they seye that they wyll hawe the quoynz[b] sett doun agayne and soo they of Bruges sayth all schall be well schorttly but hytt ys onlyckly the imbassettors that schuld acomen yn to Ynglond beth fledd to Slewce. Item Syr I hawe receyved anoder letter from yow datyd at London the x day of Fevere the whych I hawe well understond and as tochyng makyng over of mony at Bruges be exchaunge or oder wayis of conveyaunce yn redy mony or fyne gold ther can be none tell thys hete be over for every man ys yn harnesse yn the markett place and soo ys John Delowppis & Gomers Desers bothe. And Syr as for the payment of the nexte halffe zere ys wages at the vj day of Apryll I truste & putt noo dowttes yn hytt. Yowre wulles schall be owte of the town or any purveyaunce or provysion schalbe made for payment therof for John Delowppis man ys here at Callez redy to receyve hytt as sone as he heryth they be at a conclucyon at Bruges wythyn viij or x days wee schall knowe at the uttrest what weye they of Bruges wyll take for they hawe denayed them of Gaunte diversse of ther desyrys &c. Syr the saynges ys that the quoyns schall be sett down at Bruges & yff it soo be hytt were best yowre mastyrschyppes taryed yn makyng ower of yowre monys for hytt ys

[a] Magistracy. See Introduction.

[b] *Cunagium*, mint.

now at to owtreages losse the ryall ys wurth xx^{s} fl. & all oder goldds after the rate and as for new grottes ar wurth vij^{d} a pese yn Bruges now &c. Syr w^{t} the next passage I schall wryte yowre masterschyppys syche newes as I can here &c. No more unto yowre mastyrschyppis at this tyme but allmyghty Jhesu preserve yow Wrytten at Callez the xix day of Fevere.

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my ryght worschyppfull mastyrs Rechard & George Cely merchauntes of the Stappell of Callez at London yn Martt Lane so ytt dd.

134

Jhesu M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}vij

Ryght worschyppffull Syr and myn especyall good mastyr w^{t} all dew recomendacion had I umbly recomend mee unto yowr good mastyrschypp, Fyrdyr plese hytt yowre good mastyrschypp to understond that I have receyved be Thomas Graungers servaunte your letter datyd at London the ijth day of Marche the whych I hawe well understond and as towhyng the matter betwyxte yowr mastyrschypp & Sybson I hawe nott as yett spooken w^{t} John Hubbard theroff but w^{t} yn thys ij days I wyll goo to Guynesse[a] & speke w^{t} hym therfor and I dowght nott all the favour that hys mastyr and hym both can doo yn that matter or yn any oder agaynyst hym I know hytt well yowr mastyrschypp schall hawe hytt and syr for the quetaunce that Sybson made to Wylliam Strycke of Sentrycasse[b] I hawe nott yett seyn hytt but I spake w^{t} Stryck hys wyffe here at markett and sche sayd her husband hathe a quytaunce of Sybson the whych I schall see whan I com theder wheroff I schall send yowr

[a] Guines. [b] St. Tricaise, now St. Tricat, in the Calais Pale.

mastyrschypp the copy schorttly and tydynges how ze schall spede yn that matter. Syr as for tydynges owte of Flaunders they contenow styll yn myscheyff lycke as I hawe wrytten yow yn my last letter be on Thomas Spycer of the north contrey save on Satterday last was beheddyd at Bruges the lordd Dugell & moo ys lyk to be schorttly they surmysyd a matter uppon John Delowppys but he hath stoppyd them w^{t} money & soo syche men as beth of any substaunce yn Bruges feryth thys rekenyng and diversse of them stelyth dayly aweye and goyth to Myddellborow[a] yn Selond for they fere the end wyll be nawght whych I pray allmyghty Jhesu amend hytt whoo evyr presyrve yow Wrytten at Callez the xij day of Marche.

per yowre servaunte
Wylliam Cely.

Addressed: To my ryght worschyppfull mastyr
George Cely merchaunte of the
Stappell of Callez at London yn
Martt Lane so ytt dd:

135

In book form with a small amount written on each page

Jhesu

F. 1.

Vendz the iiij^{t} day of Fevverell unto Petter Johnsun of Dellff[b] and hys felischip of your saide Rychard celed iij^{M}ix^{c}lxxj Cotteswold felles purfayd at xiiij^{M} s. sold for xiiij^{s} apon every c xxv^{s} iiij^{d} fl. for a pond sterlyng. Summa of sterlyng money therof xxxix^{li} x^{s} st: Summa therof in Flymech money l^{li} vj^{d} fl. Rest clij^{li} x^{s} iiij^{d} st.: after xxiiij^{s} Summa therof in Flemech money c iij^{xx}iij^{li} v^{d} fl. . . . . } iij^{c}xxxiij^{li} xj^{li} fl.

[a] Middleburgh in Zealand. [b] Delft.

F. 2.

Item for castyng and settyng of ijM[l] felles of your brothur Rychard Celys . . . . . vj[d]

F. 3.

Paid to Robard Solle for brogage of iijM[l]ix[c] lxxj peltes of Rychard Celys the elder of every c. iiij[d] Summa xiij[s] iiij[d] Item for tellyng owt of the same, iiij[d] Item spent at bargyn-makyng, ix[d] Item a fordell at tabull, iiij[d] left in the money after viij[d] on every j lb, v[d] . . . . . xv[s] ij[d] fl.

Item John Egengton w[t] Elderbecke w[t] Adam Moy wher it a dyned for to see the said felles for the merchauntes sayd it was Conyswaye [a] and not Cotteswold felles. So spent apon them at wyne . . . . . xij[d]

Item for seeing of a v[c] felles the wych the Holonders hayd schowt wt, for every c so sene, viij[d], iij[s] iiij[d] . . . . . iij[s] v[d] ob.

Item for settyng of the felles of your faydes in the garett and sortyng som . . . . . iiij[d]

Jhesu

F. 4.

Vendz the iiij[t] day of Fevverell unto Petter Johnsun of Dellff[b] and is felischip of Wylliam Maryon ijM[l]vj[c]xxiiij pelles at xiiij nobles apon every c, xxv[s] iiij[d] fl. Sum xxvj[li] fl. Summa fl. xxxiij[li] iiij[d] fl. rest iiij[xx]xvj[li] ix[s] st. after xxiiij[s] Summa cxv[li] xiiij[s] x[d] fl. . cxvliij[li] xv[s] ij[d] fl.

[a] Possibly Kingsey, in Buckinghamshire, not far from the sheepwalks in the Chilterns. The manor belonged to the Marneys of Essex.

[b] Delft.

F. 5.

Item for tellyng owt of ijM[l] vjc xxiiij pelles at iiij[d] Item for brogage of every c, iiij[d], viij[s] ix[d] Item spent apon them at bargyn makyng vij[d] Item, a fardell at tabull, iiij[d] So lost iiij[d] . . . . . } x[s] iiij[d]

Item for seeing of ij[c] of the said felles be they pursars of felles xvj[d] . . . . . } xvj[d]

Money corent in Calles

F. 6.

P[d] to Robard Byenan tresorur as by a byll doyth apere . . . . . } iiij[li] xj[s] ix[d]

Item for your wyene lawgh at tabull . . . iiij[s] iiij[d]

Item your farewell . . . . . xij[d]

Item ruff ottes. summa . . . . . xx[d]

Item for horsse heed . . . . . j[d]

Item to my ostes for you as by a byll may apere, sum . . . . . } xvj[s] x[d]

Item j loyod of heey . . . . . ij[s] viij[d]

Item to John Borywell . . . . . xx[d]

Item j looyd heey . . . . . iij[s]

Item for schowyng of your horsse . . . . . vj[d]

F. 7.

Item I dyscharge me w[t] ij westelurs vj[s] fl. to the sum of . . . . . } lxxviij[li] xv[s] fl.

Item I dyscharge me w[t] a noblygacyons of Rychard Celes the elder payabull at Baming[a] next . . . . . } cxxv[li] vj[s] viij[d] fl.

Item a nade of the same payabull at Cold mart next after to the sum of . . . . . } xxx[li] fl.

Item I dyscharge me w[t] a noblygacyons belonging to Wylliam Maryon payabull at Baming next to the sum of . . . . . } lxix[li] iij[s] iiij[d]

[a] Balling Mart, or Bammys Mart. See Introduction.

Item a nade of the same payabull at Cold mart next after the som of . . . . . } xxx^{li}

F. 8.

Scribbled on the back of the cover:

George Cely
Scrowys of Remembraunsse

136

In book form.

On the cover: The Rekenyng of the Margett Cely

F. 1.

The first viage of the Margaret of London was to Seland in the yere of our Lord God M^{l}iiij^{c}iiij^{xx}v. The secunde to Caleis and the thrid to Burdews[a] ut videt.

M^{d} to se the pursers accomptes of the seide viages.

G. Cely.

F. 2.

M^{d} that heyr after aperythe the reckenyng of howr costes doyn be me Rychard Cely, George Cely & Wylliam Marryon as well for ryddyng, byeng of aparrell w^{t} awll odyr costes as the byeng of a schype latt cawllyd the Margett of Penermarcke[b] bohutt John Burdeycke marrener of Penermarcke in Bretten as be passeltz aperrythe mor playnely

Item inprymus layd howtt bi me Rychard Cely at the bargen mackyng for Erneste . } iiij^{d}
Item layd howtt be my goode fadyr Marryon to Wylliam Awllderyche to brynge hym to Sandwyche . . . . . } ij^{s} vj^{d}
Item p^{d} be my godfadyr to John Garwes for the hyer of an hors to beyr hymsellfe . } xviij^{d}

[a] Bordeaux. [b] Penmarch, in Bretagne.

Item be my godfadyr for hors mett . . . iij^{d}
Item p^{d} be me for a zearde of skarlett for John Bordeycker . . . . . xij^{s}
Item the iiij day of Marche I p^{d} for howr ferre at Gawysend . . . . . viij^{d}
Item at Rochester I paid per me for howr dyner & horsse mett . . . . . xij^{d}
Item at Asprynge[a] I p^{d} for howr sopar and whyne . . . . . xxj^{d}
Item for hors mett that nyhyt . . . . . ix^{d}
Item at Cawnttyrberry I p^{d} for howr dyner & horsse mett . . . . . ij^{s} iij^{d}
Item in whyen at Sandewyche for Sonday tyll Fryday . . . . . vj^{s} j^{d}
Item I delyvyr to Wylliam Awllderyche to gehyt men to hawhe hyr a flott . . . . iij^{s} iiij^{d}
Item I p^{d} for a barell of beyr for the schype. xij^{d}
Item I p^{d} for breded at Sandwyche for the schype . . . . . viij^{d}
Item I p^{d} for an sawllte fysche for the schype. iiij^{d}
Summa page . . . . . xxxiiij^{s} v^{d}

F. 3.

Item for an brassyn pwlly dowbbull for the schype . . . . . xx^{d}
Item to Wylliam Awllderyche for wyttell . iij^{s} iiij^{d}
Item for an emptty hoggyssehed . . . . viij^{d}
Item for a pecke of bay sawllte at Sandwyche vj^{d}
Item for a *li.* candyll at Sandwyche . . . j^{d} ob.
Item to Wylliam Awllderyche for expenssys in the schype . . . . . iij^{s} iiij^{d}
Item I spentt at Dover in horsse mett & manys mett . . . . . xxij^{d}
Item I p^{d} for an horsse hyer for John Havockym to Dover . . . . . viij^{d}

[a] Ospringe.

Item I p[d] for pwllys for the schype at Sandwyche . . . . . xxij[d]
Item for brassyn schyver for the schype . . xxiij[d]
Item for an kylldyrkyn of beyr . . . . . xij[d]
Item for the collar of an pwlly the byndyng w[t] iron . . . . . xviij[d]
Item I p[d] for an hawllssar . . . . . iij[s] xj[d]
Item to Wylliam Awllderyche for wyttell . iij[s] iiij[d]
Item to Patterycke Mychellson for a zearde for the forsayll . . . . . xij[d]
Item to Patterycke for an or that wos loste . viij[d]
Item for ropys to the botte swayn . . . . xij[d]
Item I spentt on the mayar at breckefaste . ix[d]
Item Tomas Wad spentt at Dover on hymsellfe & hors . . . . . vj[d]
Item for ballaste xij ton for the schype . . xxij[d]
Item to Spaynnardes that howllpe to way how anckyr . . . . . xx[d]
Item to iij marrynars that howlp ws iiij days xx[d]
Item I tocke Wylliam Awllderyche the same Fryday that thay sayllyd . . . . . xxxiiij[s] iiij[d]

Summa page . . . . . iij[ll] ix[s] ob.

F. 4.

Item I p[d] to the bottswhayn and hys matte at Sandwyche . . . . . ij[s]
Item I p[d] to John Bordeecke of Penermarcke in Bretten fyscher in the name of Rychard Cely, George Cely & Wylliam Maryon marchandes of the stapell for a schype cawllyd the Margehytt of Penmarcke in the prssenens of my noste Gyllam Delatowr and my godfadyr Maryon . . xxviij[ll]

Item I p[d] to Wylliam Hallyngeberry roper at Sandwyche for a cabull whayeng vcxx[li] & for a lede lyn whayeng v[li]	lix[s]
Item I bohutt of John Parcar of Dover iiij small sarpentynus w[t] vij chamburs of on mackyng, ij grett sarpenttynus w[t] vj chamburs, iij hacke boschys, ij hande gonys, vj longe bowys, xxx scheffe of arrows, an anckur. xliiij pellettes of lede, a mowllde of stone to caste leyd in, a grett compas, a lodston, an horne for gene powdyr, and I p[d] hym	iiij[li]
Item I bohutt of Rychard Pwrssar of Hamtton [a] an cabull, ij cetty llys, a bonnett, at and for sayll, ij harns barrellz lockyd, a glasse, a compas, a wyrckyn w[t] gonstonys, a hamys for lockys, an neynd of a cabull w[t] odyr thynges	xl[s]
Item to Gyllam Delatowyr my nost for an hawllssar	xxiij[s] iiij[d]
Item for hors mett at Sandwyche for iiij hors	v[s]
Summa page	xxxviij[li] ix[s] iiij[d]

F. 5.

Item I p[d] to my noste Gyllam de la Towr for howr melltydes from Sonday tyll Fryday .	vj[s] viij[d]
Item for wrttynge and sellynge of the testemonyaall wndyr the towyn seyll . . .	vj[s] viij[d]
Item for howr bedes xij[d] & gawhe to chyldyr & sarwanttes x[d]	xxij[d]
Item at Cawnttyrbery p[d] for dryncke, fyer, candyll & horse mett	xviij[d]
Item at Fyttyngborn [b] breckefaste & horsse mett	viij[d]

[a] Southampton. [b] Sittingbourne.

Item to Tomas Wade, John Garwes for thayr dyner bayttyng & ferre at Grawysend[a] . } xviij^{d}

Item to John Garwes for mendyng of saddyllys & schoyng . . . . . } vij^{d}

Item for bott hyer from Grawysende . . . iiij^{d}

Item I delyvyrd to my godfadyr Maryon to pay schypmen at Erytte[b] w^{t} at brohut the schype from Sandwyche xl^{s} and he layd of hys pwrs at that tyme viij^{s} vij^{d} ob. as aperythe be passelles . . . . . }

Item inprymus to Pattrycke Mychellson for ij gonys . . . . . } xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

Item p^{d} for bott hyer & mene to brynge ye bott to Sandwyche . . . . . } vj^{s} viij^{d}

Item to Pattrycke for hys hyer in bryng the schype abohutt . . . . . } vj^{s} viij^{d}

Item to Wylliam Crepayge for hys labor . . iij^{s} iiij^{d}

Item to John of Brystow . . . . . iij^{s} iiij^{d}

Item to John Tayllar . . . . . iij^{s} iiij^{d}

Item to John Tomas . . . . . iij^{s} iiij^{d}

Item to Robarde Dawhe . . . . . iij^{s} iiij^{d}

Item to Peyrs Morres . . . . . ij^{s}

Item p^{d} to wyttell the bott to Sandwyche . xx^{d}

Summa page . . . . . iij^{li} vj^{s} ix^{d}

F. 6.

Item for my godfadyrs bott hyr & Tomas Wades to Pwrfleytt[c] . . . . . } iiij^{d}

Item for ther dyner at Pwrfleytt . . . . vij^{d} ob.

Item for a bott to Erythe . . . . . j^{d}

Item thy spenttt at Erythe . . . . . j^{d}

Item for a bott to Porfleyt[c] . . . . . j^{d}

Item for fysche for ther soper . . . . . j^{d}

Item p^{d} for brede & mwskollz for the schype iiij^{d}

Summa . . . . . xlviij^{s} vij^{d} ob.

[a] Gravesend. [b] Erith. [c] Purfleet.

Item for gone powdyr to whon Kyrpayge of Sandwyche whayeng xiiij lb. . . . . iiij^{s} viiij^{d}

Item to Wylliam Code carpyntter for comyng abohutt w^{t} xij^{d} that Wylliam Aulldryche p^{d} hym of me . . . . . ij^{s} iiij^{d}

Item I p^{d} hym for the boye ys hyer . . . xij^{d}

Item to the carpyntter for a day warcke . . vj^{d}

Item to Gabryell Storcke bottswayn for comyng abohutt . . . . . ij^{s} iiij^{d}

Item to Rychard Sallyssebery maryner for comyng abohutt . . . . . ij^{s} iiij^{d}

Item to the coocke Jamus Tayllar for hys labor besyd xij^{d} that Wylliam Awllderyche p^{d} hym . . . . . ij^{s} iiij^{d}

Item I p^{d} to Kyrprayge for brynggyng the Margett to London . . . . . xx^{d}

Item to Wylliam Awlderyche for wyttell & [a]akom[a] . . . . . vj^{s} viij^{d}

Item I p^{d} to the carpyntter to send to hys whyffe to Sandwyche . . . . . iij^{s} iiij^{d}

Item to Wylliam Aullderyche for tallow and odyr geyr . . . . . x^{s}

Item p^{d} for a c iij quarters of ocon borde and for x ackon quartes . . . . . iiij^{s} iiij^{d}

Item I p^{d} to the smythe of Redclyffe for nayll for the schype as aperythe be a byll vj^{s}

Summa page . . . . . xxxij^{s} j^{d} ob.

F. 7.

Item I p^{d} to a Docheman for cawlkyng . . xij^{d}

Item I p^{d} to John Chapman for iij cawlkyng ij^{s}

Item I p^{d} to hys fellow for iij days callekynge, the day viij^{d} . . . . . ij^{s}

and for levyng of hys peche cettyll . . . ij^{s} vj^{d}

[a] Perhaps, accommodation.

Item for anodyr cawlkar, the day viij^{d} . . xvj^{d}

Item I gawhe the bottsuayne at hys departtynge . . . . . xij^{d}

Item I lent to the carpyntter on Ester Evyn on hys wyayge . . . . . ij^{s} vj^{d}

Item to Wylliam Awlderyche for wyttell . xij^{d}

Item I p^{d} to Wylliam Awdryche for hys labor in bryng the schype abohutt from Sandwyche . . . . . x^{s}

Item I delyvyrd to Wylliam Awllderyche pwrssar for wyttell for the schype xlv sawlte fysche at iiij^{d} ob a peys . . . . xvj^{s} x^{d} ob.

Item I delyveryd Wylliam Awlderyche ix Elmyn bordes . . . . . iiij^{s}

Item I delyvyrd to Wylliam Awldryche an oxe xx^{s}

Item I delyvyrd to Wylliam Aulldryche at hys goyng to Flandyr . . . . . xx^{s}

Item I p^{d} for iij^{c}iij^{d} nayll, ix^{d}, & for ij^{c} skopor nayll, vj^{d}, and for ryttyng of an ackur, viij^{d}, for a stocke, iiij^{d} . . . . ij^{s} iij^{d}

Item in Selonde p^{d} be Gylle for an cabull & odyr ropys . . . . . v^{li} fl.

Item I p^{d} to a bacar of Redcleyffe for breyd for the Margeytt . . . . . iij^{s} x^{d}

May — Item the laste day of May I p^{d} to Robard Lollay for a barrell of pyche anodyr of tar . . . . . xj^{s}

Summa page . . . . . viij^{li} viij^{s} v^{d} ob.

F. 8.

Maryon

M^{d} p^{d} be my godefadyr Maryon for vij bott orrys . . . . . vij^{s}

Item p^d be hym for pwllys, dyschys & plattars iij^s ij^d
Item p^d be hym for a c ix lb. tallow . . . ix^s viij^d
Item p^d be hym for a dossyn bowstrynges . v^d
Item p^d be hym iij dossyn candyll . . . . iij^s ix^d
Item p^d be hym iij boschellz of sawlte . . v^s iij^d
Item p^d be hym for a lanttarn . . . . . viij^d
Item p^d be hym for ij barrellz . . . . . viij^d
Item p^d be hym for a bott to brynge the schype to Blackewall . . . . . viij^d
Item p^d be hym for a rope to Rymyngetton whayng d. c xix lb. after xj^s . . . . . vij^s
Item p^d be hym for a qwartt of rossene . . xj^d
Item p^d be hym to Robard Lollay for iij barrellz peche & tare—le barrell, v^s . . xv^s
Item p^d be hym for iij pessys of ropys whayeng ijc iijq^ters iiij^lb, le c, xj^s . . . xxx^s viij^d
Item p^d be hym for flesche on Thorsseday . xiiij^d
Item p^d be hym for a qwetter of befe on Sattyrday . . . . . v^s viiij^d
Item p^d be hym for [a]ockom[a] . . . . . xiiij^d
Item p^d be hym on the bott . . . . . xx^s
Summa page . . . . . v^li xij^s x^d

F. 9.

Seland Viage.

Item p^d be Gyllys my prenttes to Wylliam Parcker master in the Margett Cely for hys wages in Sellond [b] . . . . . xxx^s fl.

Change of handwriting:

Item p^d be my broder & me for the Margett to master Foskewe for to cleyr the Margett xl^s whereof my broder p^d xx^s . . . . xx^s
Summa . . . . . xl^s fl.
Summa layd howght of the parcellys befor wrett . . lxiiij^li xij^s xj^d ob. st:

[a] Perhaps, accommodation. [b] Zealand.

Wylliam Maryon.

Per my Cossen Wylliam Maryon to the corner polles, blolles, deshes and plattars . . . vj^{s} j^{d}
Item for an quartern and a hallfe of fysche . xx^{s}
Item for an oxe . . . . . xv^{s} iiij^{d}
Item delyveryd to Wylliam Alldereche be my cossen, Wylliam Mareon . . . . . xxiij^{s} iiij^{d}
Item iij barellys . . . . . xij^{d}
Item an hox . . . . . xiiij^{s} iiij^{d}
Item iiij dossen candell . . . . . v^{s}
Item ij showelys . . . . . viij^{d}
Item a stone okem . . . . . v^{d}
Summa . . . . . iiij^{li} vj^{s} ij^{d}

Item per be hym to the smethe . . . . iij^{s} ij^{d}
Item x dossen brede . . . . . x^{s}
Item an quarter and xx^{li} byskett . . . . iiij^{s}
Item an M^{l} bellett . . . . . v^{s}
Item p^{d} be my cossen Maryon to Wylliam Alldereche as be hys lastt byll apperethe . vj^{s} xj^{d}
Item at Graveszend xij^{d}. Summa . . . . xxix^{s} j^{d}
Summa page . . . . . v^{li} xvj^{s} iij^{d}
Totall per W. Maryon . . xv^{li} ix^{s} vj^{d} & xiij^{li} & xxvij^{li} x^{s} vj^{d}

F. 10.

Change of handwriting:

Item the xvj day of Jun y delyvered unto Wylliam Alderyche for to bey canvas wytall . . . . . xx^{s}
Item the xx day of Juen y delyvered unto Wylliam Alderyche in rede mony. Summa . . . . . x^{s} [a]

[a] Altered from xj^{s} viij^{d}.

Item the xxj day of Juen y payd for ij quarters of tembere of xviij fotte the pyesse the quarter v^{d} ob.	xj^{d}
Item the sam day payd for ij quarters of tember the quarter iiij^{d}. Summa . . .	viij^{d}
Item the xxij day of Juen y payd for a planke for a capston stole iiij^{s} and for sawyng of the sam iiij^{d}	iiij^{s} iiij^{d}
Item the xxiiij day of Juen I payd for salt fyght	xiij^{d}
Item the xxvj day of Juen y delyvered unto Wylliam Alderyche for to bey wodde and fyght and oder stoffe	xx^{s}
Item payd for vj blacbellys[a]	iij^{s}
Item the xxvij day of Juen y delyvered unto Wylliam Alderyche for to pay for a barrell of beffe	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
Item the sam day payd for vj toun of balast .	ij^{s}
Item the xxix day of Juen y delyvered unto Wylliam Alderyche for to pay for a houx, xij^{s} viij^{d} and for ij boschelles of saltte ij^{s}. Summa	xiiij^{s} viij^{d}
Item the ij day of Julle y delyvered to Wylliam Alderyche in mony. Summa .	x^{s}
Item the v day of Julle y payd to Townys-hend baker for bredde for the Margett. Summa	x^{s} vj^{d}
Summa page	v^{li} v^{s} j^{d} [b]

[a] *Sic*, but perhaps Black bollys or Black bowls, drinking vessels, were meant.
[b] Altered from v^{li} xij^{s} ij^{d}.

F. 11.

In same handwriting as F. 9.

Item p[d] per me George Cely for the Margett of Penermarke now called the Margett Cely . . . . . xx[s]

Item p[d] be me to master Foskewe to cler the Margett and for an quettauns of hym xl[s] wherof p[d] per my broeder xx[s] and me . . xx[s]

Fosst delyveryd per me an anker to the sayd shepe pris . . . . . xiij[s] iiij[d]

Item delyveryd per me ij stollys . . . . xij[d]

Item delyveryd be me to Wylliam Allderecheat hes comyng howght of Selond . . . xl[s]

Item p[d] be me to John paynter for payntyng of pavessys . . . . . v[s] iiij[d]

Item p[d] per me for an verken for gonpouder. viij[d]

Item p[d] per me for lxij[li] gonpouder, iiij[d] le li. xx[s] viij[d]

Item delyveryd the master for Cokeseluyr (?) ij[s] iiij[d]

Item iij c Lampons . . . . . xij[d]

Item ij zerdes di rede xxij le zerde for the tope armer . . . . . iiij[s] vij[d]

Item an zerde of wyght for the same . . . xij[d]

Item pellettes lxvj[li] le de iiij[li] yryn dysse . v[s]

Item xij[li] gonpowder . . . . . iiij[s]

Item vj heye byllys . . . . . v[s]

Item v dossen darttes . . . . . iiij[s] ij[d]

Item iij haye boshes-pris . . . . . xxiiij[s] [a]

Item an payr corsettes and an stoll, pris . . iiij[s]

Item an rede cott of fens . . . . . iiij[s]

To Caleis { Item y delyveryd to Wylliam Allderecheat hys departyng to Calles } xiij[s] iiij[d]

Item an long spere and an stoll . . . .

[a] Altered from xx[s] ij[d].

Item pd be me for iij hanker stolkes v^{d} le pesse . . . . . xv^{d}

Summa page my anker and my stollys nott reconyd . viij^{li} xiiij^{s} viij^{d}

Summa totallis layd howght be all parteys . . . . . lxxviij^{li} xiiij^{s} ix^{d} ob.

vij^{li} xvj^{s} iij^{d} [a]

F. 12.

Item the xiiij day of Augost p^{d} be me to an marrynar yn Temy Strett [b] for an cabull of iiij^{xx} fadour of John Constantyne . . . xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

Item the same day p^{d} to myllar of Herythe [c] for an bott for the Margett be me George Cely . . . . . iij^{li} iij^{s} ix^{d}

Item an ox for vettell to Bordewys [d] . . . xx^{s}

Item iij quarttars of whett . . . . . xx^{s}

Item p^{d} be me to Wylliam Aldereche allso on Backett Newday . . . . . xxiiij^{s} iiij^{d} ob.

Summa . . . . . vij^{li} v^{d} ob.

Item the sheppe hasse gotton toward the countertasyon of thys an zen wherof partyshon most be made . . . . . xxv^{li} xviij^{s} fl.

Item p^{d} be me at Graveszend to the serchar at the departyng of the sheppis to Bordewys . . . . . iij^{s} iiij^{d}

Summa layd howght per me . . . xv^{li} xviij^{s} v^{d} ob.

Summa layd howght per W. Maryon. xxix^{li} xix^{s} vij^{d}

Summa layd howght per my broder . xlvj^{li}.

Summa totallis layd howght uppon the Margett be us from whe[n w]he hade hyr to hyr vyayge to Bordeuys iiij^{xx}xj^{li} xviij^{s} ob.

[a] Altered from vj^{li} iij^{s} v^{d}

[b] Thames Street.

[c] Erith.

[d] Bordeaux.

[a] Item payd be me Wylliam Maryon at Graveshend to the serchar at the partyng of the schyppe to Bordewys ward. Summa

F. 13.

The paymentes of the marynars of the Margett.

Forst Wylliam Parker

ij rede cott of fense. Wylliam Alldereche . . . . . xxxvj^{s}
Wylliam Jaccson . . . . . xviij^{s}
Pellygger Calker (xviij^{s} ij^{s}) . . . . . xx^{s}
James Walsshe . . . . . xviij^{s}
Thomas Cardon, portayge a pype . . . . ix^{s} summa xviij^{s}
John Chenyr, Coke . . . . . xxij^{s} vj^{d}
Robard Lyncolln, botswayn W.M. xij^{s} vj^{d} . . xxij^{s} vj^{d}
Thomas Medecrosst . . . . . xviij^{s}
Rychard Bocharer ij^{s} for harnesse . . . . xvj^{s}
Dave Wylliamson dede to Wylliam Aldereche . . . . . ix^{s} vj^{d}, Speryng ij^{s} viij^{d}
Julle. Thomas Bawen . . . . . xiij^{s} vj^{d}
James Tayller . . . . . xiij^{s} vj^{d}
Persse Parker . . . per my Broder, x^{s} . xiij^{s} vj^{d}
ij men from Bordewys vj^{s} viij^{d} le perre . .
Robard Trewtall . . . . . xiij^{s} iiij^{d} le master
Thomas Samson . . . . . j pype be vj^{s} x^{d}
Item beffe iij^{s} viij^{d}
The master of Thomas Zoge iiij noblys p^{d} per le master . . . . . hake iij^{s}
Of me an nobyll . . . . . nott mett iij^{d}
Wylliam Aldereche to the master vij^{s} viij^{d} . xiij^{s} ix^{d}
Item Sent Tannys mony . . . . . .
Wylliam Parkar master to Wylliam Alldereche . . . . . vij^{s} viij^{d}

[a] This entry is crossed out.

F. 14.

Sent Annys lyght . . . . . xv^{d}
Speryng . . . . . xvj^{d}
George Cely . . . . . vj^{s} viij^{d}
Of my Cossen Maryon. . . . . v^{li}
Of my broder . . . . . iij^{li} xiiij^{s} vj^{d}
Per me . . . . . xvj^{s} x^{d}
Per me to Rychard, bochar . . . . . xvj^{s}
Per me to Rychard, bochar for mett . . . ij^{d}
Per me for Wylliam Parker iiij parsellys myselfe whone . . . . . } xvj^{s} xj^{d}
Item to Rychard bochar . . . . . ij^{d}
Item p^{d} per me to Speryng for Dave Wylliamson . . . . . } ij^{s} viij^{d}
Item ij padelocces and the harnesse . . . ix^{d}
Item the xvj day of Feverell p^{d} in the Zeldehall for Wylliam Parker be my broder. } v^{s} viij^{d}
Item I delyveryd Rychard bochar to kepe the shepe . . . . . } xij^{d}
Item per my broder to Thomas Yogge . . xxvj^{s} viij^{d}
Item to Plemowthe be my broder and me . xl^{s}
Item per Wylliam Maryon . . . . . xl^{s}
Item per Wylliam Maryon for ballest, xxxv ton . . . . . } xj^{s} viij^{d}
Item per Wylliam Maryon to the master. . xviij^{s}
Item to Rychard Cortes at for mony lent to the Margett . . . . . } viij^{s} viij^{d}
Item p^{d} per my broder to Lolley . . . . xxvij^{s} vj^{d}
Item per my broder to Remygton . . . . v^{s} v^{d}
Per my broder at Plemouthe . . . . . xxij^{s} ij^{d} qr^{a}.
Per me at Plemouthe . . . . . xxx^{s} ob. qr^{a}.
Calles vyayge the bere amountes . . . . lvj^{s} viij^{d} — Caleis viage.
Bordewys vyayge amountes v pypys xviij kylderkens at the xxviij day of Jenyver } — Burdews Viage.

Per my broder layd owght . . . . . viij^{li} xvj^{s} iij^{d} qr^{a}.
Per me layd owght . . . . . v^{li} iiij^{s} vij^{d} ob. qr^{a}.
Per Wylliam Maryon, to the isue allso, iiij^{s} . ix^{li} xvj^{d} [a]

137

A Bill of Expenses during part of Lent.

F. 1.

M^{d} on [b] Sum takyn Allssen to lay howght . . . . . } iiij^{s} vj^{d} fl.
on Fryday at nyght . . . ij^{d}
Item I delyverd Allssen alsso iiij^{s} [c]

Satterday. Item an cod . . . . v^{d} ob.
Item brede . . . . j^{d}
Item freshe watter fyshe an carpe a breme ij ellis } iiij^{s} ij^{d}
A me. Item v^{li} candell . . . viij^{d} ob. qr^{a}.

on Sonday I delyveryd hyr . . } iiij^{s} ij^{d} fl.
Sonday . . . . . iij^{s} fl.
Monday . . . . iiij^{s} ij^{d} fl.
Summa . . . xx^{s} fl.

Lent Allsson to pay for Wymen . . . . iiij^{s} vj^{d} fl.
Charge. Item on Satterday delyveryd Allson . . . viij^{s} viij^{d} fl.
Item on Sonday delyveryd hyr . . . . . vij^{s} ij^{d} fl.
Item on Monday delyveryd hyr . . . . iiij^{s} ij^{d} fl.
Item on Whenys day y delyveryd Alson . . ij^{s} fl.
Item [Thyrs]day . . . . . xviij^{d} fl.
Item xj^{d} Fryday. . . . . .
Summa . . . . . xxiij^{s} vj^{d} fl.

Dyscharge Satterday. Item an carp an breme ij elys . . . . . iiij^{s} ij^{d}
Item an cod . . . . . v^{d} ob.
Item brede . . . . . j^{d}
Item v^{li} candell . . . . . viij^{d} ob. qr^{a}.

[a] Altered from viij^{li} xviij^{s} iiij^{d}.
[b] These two words are crossed out.
[c] 'vj^{d}' is crossed out.

Item vj playsys	xvij^{d}	
Item for wyttynges	iiij^{d}	
Item whelkes	iiij^{d}	
Item iij solys	vij^{d}	
Item an coddys hede	ij^{d}	
Item for moscollys	ij^{d}	
Item zerbys	j^{d}	
Item spyssys	viij^{d}	
Item brede	j^{d}	
Item ij jollys sallt semend	xviij^{d}	
Item ij pekerellys	xij^{d}	Sonday.
Item an grene fyshe	vj^{d}	
Item whyght heryng	iij^{d}	
Item an pesse freshe semend	ix^{d}	
Item zerbys	ij^{d}	
Item an playsse	j^{d} obb.	
Item kokyllis	j^{d}	
Item synamen	j^{d}	
Summa	xiij^{s} viij^{d} ob. qr^{a}.	

F. 2.

Item for playsse	x^{d}	Monday.
Item a jowlle freshe semond	xx^{d}	
ij grett ellys	xx^{d}	
Wyttyng	ij^{d}	
Halffe an grene fyshe	iij^{d} ob.	
Moscollys	iiij^{d}	
Spyssys	iiij^{d}	
Zerbys	ob.	
Item oylle	iiij^{d}	
Item iiij playsse	ix^{d}	Tewysday.
Item an ell	ix^{d}	
Item halffe an grene fyshe	iij^{d}	
Item oystors	iij^{d}	

Item zerbys . . . . . ob.
Item zedys in the garden . . . . . ij^{d}
Item whyttyng . . . . . j^{d} ob.
Item shyrympis . . . . . j^{d}
Item kokollis . . . . . ob.
Item synamon . . . . . ob.
Item sope . . . . . ij^{d}
Whensday. Item iij playsse iiij^{d} ob. . . . . iiij^{d} ob.
Item grene fyshe, iiij^{d} . . . . . iiij^{d}
Item allmendys . . . . . j^{d}
Item moscollis . . . . . j^{d}

Summa . . . . . vij^{s} vij^{d} ob.

F. 3.

Thorssday. Item iiij playsse . . . . . iiij^{d}
Item grene fyshe . . . . . ij^{d}
Item wyghttyng . . . . . ij^{d}
Item ellis . . . . . ij^{d}
Item whellkes . . . . . iiij^{d} ob.
Item moscollis . . . . . j^{d}
Item synamon . . . . . j^{d}
Item zerbys . . . . . ob.
Item synamon . . . . . j^{d}
Item mostard and veneger . . . . . vij^{d}
Item for bakyng iiij boshellis . . . . . iiij^{d} ob.

Summa . . . . . ij^{s} v^{d} ob.

Item iiij boshellis whett . . . . . viij^{s}
Item an fat a bere . . . . . ij^{s} iij^{d}
Item ij lode whode . . . . . iij^{s}

Summa . . . . . xv^{s} viij^{d} ob.

Summa totallis charge . . . xxxix^{s} fl.
Summa dyscharge . . . . . xxxv^{s} ij^{d} qr^{s}. fl.

Costes rest . . . . . iij^{s} ix^{d} ob. qr^{s}. fl.

On Sonday master leffetenawnt—ij gestes

R torneys whyffe
Thomas Whode

Tewysday master leffetenawnt, iij gestes

the steward Gynus
Relkes
Syr R Goodman

Thorsday, Harowld Staunton.

Benett Trottar ij^{s} j^{d}.

John Elderbelke an gest at syde tabull

Item an Howyd Dorne

a jolle freshe samond . . . . . xx^{d}
an pesse porposse . . . . . ij^{s} ij^{d} } iij^{s} x^{d}

138

Redey mony by me

Item ccl Rynyshe gylderns at iiij^{s} iiij^{d} fl. . . . liiij^{li} iij^{s} iiij^{d} fl.
Item lxxiiij hettrytes at iiij^{s}, sum . . . . . xiiij^{li} xvj^{s} fl.
Item xxxix^{li} d. at v^{s} iiij^{d}, sum . . . . . x^{li} x^{s} viij^{d} fl.
Item xxij lewys at vj^{s} viij^{d}, sum. . . . . vij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} fl.
Item vij ryalis d. xiij^{s} iiij^{d} sum . . . . . iiij^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d} fl.
Item xx Andreus iiij^{s} vj^{d} fl. sum . . . . . iiij^{li} x^{s} fl.
Item iij rydars and ij Hongry docat at v^{s} viij^{d}, sum xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d} fl.
Item nyn hekyn grottes iiij^{d} ob. . . . . xlj^{li} v^{s} fl.
Item in plakes ij^{d} qr^{a}. . . . . xxvj^{s} fl.
Item in plakes of ij^{d} ob. . . . . vij^{li} fl.

Summa . . . . . cxlvij^{li} iiij^{s} iiij^{d} fl.

Item of John de Styrne . . . . . xxij^{li} ij^{s} fl.
Item of W. Borwell . . . . . xxvj^{li} vij^{s} ix^{d} fl.

Summa . . . . . ciiij^{xx}xv^{li}ij^{s} j^{d} fl.[a]

Item an cxx postlates at ij^{s} viij^{d} fl. summa . . xvj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d} fl.[b]
Item in whyght mony, v^{li} x^{s} fl. . . . . x^{li} x^{s} fl.

Summa . . . . . xxj^{li} x^{s} fl.

Item uppon Meson hevyn I toke Wylliam Borwell in redy mony to feche me carolis . . . } x^{li} fl.
Item delyverd mor to hym be xliiij^{s} and Rechard Rodclffe w^{t} John van State. . . . } xliiij^{s}
y delyverd hym vj lewis and an rynyshe gylder
And he delyverd me in carowlys . . . . . xij^{li} fl.
Item resseyvyd W. Borwell in caroulis . . . . xij^{li} iiij^{d} qr^{a}.
Item the getyng of them iiij^{s} fl. sum . . . . xij^{li} iiij^{s} iiij^{d} qr^{a}.

139

A sale of House Property.

Item the xxiiij day of Augost I Handrew Hawesse have sowle unto Jorge Cely the wholl howsse w^{t} the zerde appon the northe syde and to hys stabull an the sowthe syde and ij tenauntrys cowmyng to hys ij howssys of me before bowght the bredythe of the wholl howsse of the northe syde and on the sowthe syde from the corner howsse an zenst the est whache howsse to the nythe tenauntry in the ternyte lane.

I promysse to perfforme the same abowe writtyn thys ys synyd w^{t} my hond.

[a] Written below 'Summa totallis ij^{c}iij^{li} xij^{s} j^{d} fl.' crossed out.
[b] The 'xiij^{s} iiij^{d}' inserted.

143

Robard Cely, Wylliam Maryon, John Lynd, Rychard Cely, George Cely, Charlys Vyllacys, Raffe Lymyngton and Rychard Awode, Wylliam Cely and Thomas.

Summa . . x perswonys.

Forst to Bollen whord	viij^{d}
homewhard	vij^{d}
Item at Bollen for te denar unto the koke . .	v$_{s}$ iij^{d}
Item for the whiyne at that dynar	iiij^{s}
Item there as whe lay all nyght for whne, bedys and horsse	iiij^{s} x^{d}
Item gavyn the mynstrell	iiij^{d}
Summa page	xv^{s} viij^{d} fl.
Item p^{d} be me for there cart	ix^{s}
Summa totallis	xxiiij^{s} vij^{d} [a]

Item xj bere the xv^{s} viij^{d} Aman.
Item vij bere to the wayne xvj^{d} Aman.

Resseyvyd of Rychard Whode deu be hym to pay vj^{d} [b]	ij^{s} iiij^{d}
Item resseyvyd of my cossyn Maryon	ij^{s} x^{d} fl.
Wylliam Cely xij^{d} Wylliam Maryon viij^{d} . . . Rychard Cely vij^{d}, Gorge vij^{d}	ij^{s} x^{d} fl.
Item resseyvyd of my cossyn Maryon for hys lynyn clothe y bowght at Brege	vj^{s} viij^{d}
xxiiij^{li} xiiij^{s} iiij^{d} ster . . . xxxj^{li} xvij^{s} iij^{d} fl..	lix^{li} vj^{s} v^{d} fl.

[a] *Sic.* It should be xxiiij^{s} viij^{d}.

[b] Allowing eleven persons, not ten as above, Rychard Whode's share, including the wayne, would amount to about ij^{s} x^{d}. But four of the rest only paid ij^{s} x^{d} between them.

144

Jhesu M^{l}iiijlxxviij

Item hereafter apperyth that mony I p^{d} for frayght in the name of my fadyr Rychard Cely as affter aperythe be dyvars parcellz.

Item the iiijth day of Augost p^{d} be me in the name of my fadyr Rychard Cely unto James Hollond master in the Blythe of London for the frayght of ij sarpleris the sarpler vj^{s}viij^{d}, Summa xiij^{s} iiij^{d} premage ij^{d}. Summa .	xiij^{s} vj^{d} fl.
Item the same day p^{d} unto John Cossyn[a] master in the Mare John for frayght of iiij sarpleris the sarpler vj^{s} viij^{d} premage iiij^{d}. Summa	xxvij^{s} fl.
Item p^{d} be me unto Peter Pottay, master in Mylhell of Callez for the frayght of ij sarpleris vj^{s} viij^{d} the sarpler premage ij^{d}. Summa	xiij^{s} vj^{d} fl.
Item p^{d} be me unto John Hall, master in the Antony Myhall[b] for frayght of iiij sarpleris vj^{s} viij^{d}, premage iiij^{d}. Summa. . . .	xxvij^{s} fl.
Item p^{d} be me unto Robard Tege master in the Mare of Callez for frayght of ij sarpleris, the sarpler vj^{s} viij^{d}, premage ij^{d}.	xiij^{s} vj^{d} fl.
Item the same day p^{d} be me unto Wylliam Koke master in the Mare undyr Scofft for iij sarpleris, le sarpler vj^{s} viij^{d} premage iij^{d}. Summa	xx^{s} iij^{d} fl.
Summa page	v^{li} xiiij^{s} ix^{d} [c] fl.

[a] Corrected from 'Robard More.' [b] Millhall, on the Medway.
[c] Corrected from 'vj^{d}.'

Item the same day and tyme p[d] be me in the name of my fadyr unto Thomas Doysse master in the Peter of London for frayght of ij sarpleris the sarpler vj[s] viij[d], premage ij[d]. Summa	xiij[s] vj[d] fl.
Item p[d] be me unto Hewe Whegyn in the Crystoffyr of Bradewell [a] for frayght of iijM[l]v[c] fellz p[d] be me for the pake vj[s] viij[d] Summa iij[li], premage xviij[d]. Summa . .	iij[li] xviij[d] fl.
Item p[d] be me unto Andrewe Tomson master in the Julyan Chambyr for ij sarpleris the sarpler vj[s] viij[d], premage ij[d]	xiij[s] vj[d] fl.
Item p[d] be me unto Thomas Long master in the Crystoffyr of London for frayght of iij sarpleris the sarpler vj[s] viij[d], premage iij[d]. Summa	xx[s] iij[d] fl.
Item p[d] be me unto Rychard Sawzear master in the Tymyte of London for the frayght of ij sarpleris the sarpler vj[s] viij[d], premage ij[d]. Summa	xiij[s] vj[d] fl.
Item p[d] be me unto John undyr Wode master in the Mare Mallyng [b] for the frayght of M[l]ix[c]lxviij felz vj[s] viij[d] the pake, Summa xxxij[s] ix[d], premage x[d]. Summa .	xxxiij[s] vij[d] fl.
Item p[d] be me unto Gylbard Hody master in the Mare of London for frayght of v sarpleris and a poke, the sarpler vj[s] viij[d] Summa xxxiij[s] iiij[d] premage vj[d]. Summa	xxxiij[s] x[d] fl.
Summa page	ix[li] ix[s] viij[d] fl.
Item the same day p[d] be me unto Robard Bell master in the Andrew Whalldyrs-whyke [c] for an sarpler vj[s] viij[d] premage j[d]	vj[s] ix[d] fl.

[a] Bradwell in Essex.

[b] Malling in Kent. The parish touches the Medway; but it might be mis-written for Halling.

[c] Walberswick, in Suffolk.

Item p[d] be me unto John Rygeman master in the Tyrnyte of Mylton [a] for the farayght of ij sarpleris the sarpler vj[s] viij[d], premage ij[d]	xiij[s] vj[d] fl.
Item p[d] be me unto John Hedemond master in the Mare of Rederythe [b] for ij sarpleris vj[s] viij[d], premage ij[d]. Summa	xiij[s] vj[d] fl.
Item the same day p[d] be me unto Robard Wodelas master in the Crystoffyr Grene for the frayght of ij sarpleris the sarpler vj[s] viij[d], premage ij[d]	xiij[s] vj[d] fl.
Item the same day p[d] be me unto John Pypar, master in the George of Bredylsay [c] for the frayght of ij sarpleris vj[s] viij[d] le sarpler premage ij[d]. Summa . .	xiij[s] vj[d] fl.
Item the same day p[d] be me unto John Beryffe master in the Mare of Bretylsay [c] for ij sarpleris vj[s] viij[d] the sarpler, premage ij[d]	xiij[s] vj[d] fl.
Item the same day p[d] to Wylliam Spryng master in the Barbara of Maliun [d] for iij sarpleris vj[s] viij[d] the sarpler premage iij[d]. Summa	xx[s] iij[d] fl.
Item p[d] be me unto Wylliam Prowde, mastyr in the Tywe of Calles for ij sarpleris the sarpler vj[s] viij[d] premage ij[d]	xiij[s] vj[d] fl.
Summa page	v[li] viij[s] fl.
Summa totallis frayght . .	xx[li] xij[s] v[d] fl.
Item the losse of the mony amountes hereof of thes xxj parsellis ij[s] vj[d] of hevery pound. Summa	lj[s] vj[d] qr[a]. fl.
Summa totallis p[d] per me .	xxiij[li] iij[s] xj[d] qr[a]. fl.

[a] Milton, in Kent.
[b] Rotherhithe.
[c] Brightlingsea, in Essex.
[d] Malling, in the Medway, probably; see above.

145

Jhesus Maria . Assit principio Sancta Maria meo

Here folowyng ar the parcels of receiptes and paymentes of me William Roggers to the use of my maister George Cely merchaunt of the Staple of Caleis in the monthes of March, April and May in the yere of our Lord God M[l]cccciiij[xx]viij the thrid yere of the regne of King Henry the vij[th] that is to sey :

First I receivid of my seid maister in dyvers cunys as it apperith as well by a bill of my said maisters owne hande as by my boke of parcels . . .	xxix[s] j[d] fl.	
Also I receyvid of my seid maistir iij[s] iiij[d] in sterlyng money for myn expensys	v[s] fl.	
Also I receyvid of my seid maister w[l]in the some of xl[li] delyverd to me for hymself and my maistir his brothir as parcell of the seid xl[li] by his comaundement takyn to his owne use . . .	vj[li] fl.	
Also I receivid of increce in the chaunge of iij mylleyn grotes and ij half grotes every grote delyverd to me for ij[s] fl. forasmuch as I put theym awey in the eschaunge of theym every pece for ij[s] j[d] fl. more in all by ob. fl. . . .	iiij[d] ob. fl.	vij[s] ij[d] ob. fl. & ij[d] of Brittayne money
Also I receyvid of increce of iiij Lymmyr grotes delyvered to me for v[d] fl. every pece forasmuch as I put theym awey every pece for vj[d] fl	iiij[d] fl.	
Also I receivid of increce in xxxix[s] ij[d] of flemyssh pens in every vij[d] flemyssh ij[d] flemyssh	vj[s] vj[d]	ij[d] of Brittissh money

Also I receyvid of John Speryng as in money reteyned in his owne handes for part of the price of vj boltes of Elron [a] canvas bought of hym for a new seyle for the Margaret Cely price of every pece xij frankes which is xl[s] fl. which money he shuld have delyverd to me at the Bay that is to say, lxvj[s] viij[d] sterlyng . c[s] fl.

Totalis Recepte huc viij[li] xv[d] ob. c[s] fl.

Some of all the receiptes aboveseid is . . . . xiij[li] xv[d] ob. fl. & ij[d] of Brittayne money Whereof

Lynyn cloth

I paid vj[li] xvij[d] qr[a] fl. for ciiij aunys iij quarters of Brittissh cloth bought at Bourgneuff [b] and Mastoo [c] in Brittayne price of every aune one w[t] another w[t] costes xvj[d] fl abought bying of the same in the bakside of this bille and by my boke of parcels xiiij[d] di qr[a] fl. more in all by iij[d] qr[a] . . . . . vj[li] ij[s] ix[d] qr[a] fl.

Wollyn cloth

Also for v alnes j quarter of Brittissh Russet bought at Mastoo price of every alne vj[s] viij[d] of Brittayne money more in all by j[d] ob. of Brittayne money v[s] x[d] fl.

A paryng shovill

Also for a paryng shovill of iron for gardyns bought at Mastoo . . . . . iiij[d] fl.

Also for my dyner and drynkyng at Mastoo upon Saturday the xth day of May . . . . . ix[d] ob. fl.

Lyng fyssh

Also paid to a man of Conket [d] for xv lynges price of every pece vj[d] fl. . . . . vij[s] vj[d] fl.

Also for a pece of powdird fissh callid . . . . iij[d] ob. fl.

[a] Elorn in Bretagne.
[b] Bourgneuf in Bretagne.
[c] Machecoul in Bretagne.
[d] Le Conquet in Bretagne.

Costes upon Marten Gye

Also paid for new makyng of a cote and for the color & ventes of the same for Marten Gye the Brittissh child . . . . . v[d] fl.
Also for a new cappe iiij[d], a payr of shoys iiij[d] & laces ob. and for shavyng ob. and wasshyng of Martens shertes . . . . . ix[d] ob. fl.
Also for his mete & drynke at myn hostes hous at Bourgneuff afoir he was araied [a] . . . . iiij[d] fl.
} xvij[d] ob. fl.

Also paid for vj aunes iij quarters of lynyn cloth in iij remenants bought at Conket price of every aune vj[d] fl. . . . . iij[s] iiij[d] ob. fl.

Totalis solucionis huc vj[li] xviij[s] xj[d] ob. qr[a].[b]

Some of all the paymentes aboveseid is . . vij[li] ij[s] iiij[d] qr. fl.
And so remayne due unto my seid maistre . cxviij[s] xj[d] qr[a] fl. & ij[d] of Brittissh money Whereof

Remanent ij[li] 18[s] ij[d] qr[a] et ij[d] Brittanie inde liberantur cxiij[s] vij[d] fl. et remanent v[s] iiij[d] qr. fl. et ij[d] Brittanie [b]

Money delyverd to the use of the Margaret Cely

I delyverd to the use and freight of the Margaret Cely of my maisters owne money remaynyng in my handes upon this accompt wherwith I am chargid in myn accompt of the viage of the seid ship callid the Margaret Cely as it playnly apperith by the same accompt . . . . . cxiij[s] vij[d] fl.

[a] The accounts of the 'Brittissh child' are wrong.
[b] Crossed out.

Money remaynyng in my handes clerely upon this accompt

And so remayne clerely in myn owne handes of the seid xiij^{li} xv^{d} ob. fl. & ij^{d} of Brittissh money of my hole charge althynges above specified allowed to me . . . . . } v^{s} iiij^{d} qr^{a} fl. & ij^{d} of Brittissh money I the seid William Roggers have delyverd to my seid maister (Que nondum liberatur summa &c.) upon the day of

Remanent in loculo meo

iiij grotes of viij^{d} fl. the pece ij^{s} viij^{d}
iiij flemyssh pens iiij^{d} . . . . . } iij^{s} iiij^{d} fl. & ij^{d} of Brittissh money.
A pece of silver delyverd to me for iiij^{d} . . . . . .
A pece of Brittayne money of ij^{d} britañ
In sterlyng money, xvj^{d} qr^{a} . . . . ij^{s} qr^{a} fl.

} In all v^{s} iiij^{d} qr^{a} fl. & ij^{d} of Brittissh money

On the Dorse:

Lynyn cloth bought by William Roggers

First a remenant of lynyn cloth conteynyng xiij ellys & a half. . . . . .
Item ij remenantes of lynyn cloth conteynyng xxj aunes & a half . . . . . .
} In all xxxv aunes, price of every aune xv^{d} fl. } xliij^{s} ix^{d} fl.

Item ij remenantes of lynyn conteynyng xxviij aunys iij quarters, price of every aune xiij^{d} fl. & ij^{d} of Brittissh money . } xxxiiij^{s} iiij^{d} fl.

Item a remenant of lynyn cloth of xv aunys . . .
Item a remenant of lynyn cloth of xij aunys . . .
Item a remenant of lynyn cloth of ix aunys iij quarters
} In all xxxvj aunys iij quarters, price of every aune xiij^{d} fl. } xxxix^{s} ix^{d} ob. qr^{a} fl.

Item a remenant of lynyn cloth of iiij aunys j quarter, price of every aune x^{d} fl. . . } iij^{s} vj^{d} ob. fl.

Summa . . . . . vj^{li} xvij^{d} qr. fl.

Item for myn expensys & one other mannys that halpe me to bye the seid cloth . . } xiiij^{d}

Item for wasshyng of iij peces which were wet in salt water . . . . . } ij^{d} fl.

146

This Letter, with no date of the year, may have reference to the alleged poaching adventure of the end of 1481, but George Cely was not involved in that.

Ryght trusty and welbelovyd frend I recommaund me unto you acertynyng you sent your departyng ther hath ben labour mad ayenst you and your brother for the mater ye knowe but my fortune was to be by my lorde whan it was questian and I rememberyd my lord wiche had forgotyn the sayd mater and so after my rememberaunce my lord mad suche arnswer as shal be to your plesure in so muche as my lord hath promysid his singuler good lordshipp unto you and youre brother all men receyvid and yn anythyng els he cawdo for you or your brother he wulbe your good lorde. And to my power I schall be your frend duryng my lyfe. Fellow George I require you bespeke me xij dosun payre of loven[a] glovis ij dosun of the marke of ij, iij dosun of the marke of iiij, ij dosun of the mark of iij and iiij dosun of the mark of ij. I must within thys viij dayes send you wurd to pray you to ley owte mony for vj horharnese for my lorde of Cokyngham[b] and I shall paye you for it at Calis I pay [*sic*] you send me wurde how ye wuldo for me in thes maters by the next that comyth to the wiche tyme I schall thynk long to as knowith Jhesu who have you

[a] Louvain. [b] Perhaps Buckingham.

in his keping. From Calis the ij day of May w^t^ the hand of your tru loving frend

youres Bryan.

Addressed: To my ryght hertly belovyd frend
George Cely marchant being at
Bruges be thys letter delyverd.

On the Dorse: Item my xij dosun payre of glovis
Item iij stykkes of tarny sateyn
or els vyelett sateyn of Bruges.

147

Jhesu

Ryght wyrschypfull sir I recommend me unto you as hartely as I can. Letyng you wnderstond that I resavyd a letter from you wherin ze wrotte for your mone I pray yow that ze take it to no dysplesour for I insure you hever tyll Syr Wylliam com hom I wend ze had ben contentt of Sir John Dyebotes I haw send hym wrytyng under formum that ze sall be contentt in all the hast posybyll w^t^owt fawll & I pray yow that ze wyll caws hym to hawe a letter send to hym wyche sall be bownd & sellyd w^t^ this your letter & affter the syzht of the byll I wot well ze sall not fawte of your mone and at my goyng I sall make syche amendes as ze sall holdyn well contentt wyche tym salbe ryght schortly be the gras of God who preserve you. At Caleis on the viij day of Maye.

your luffyng
Rauff Hastynges.

Addressed: To the ryght wyrschypfull George
Selye merchand dwelyng in Marke
Lane in London.

148

My ful trusty frende I recommaund me to you. I have recevved your kynd and lovyng letter and wel understande alle thynges therynne contened whereof thanke you and for youre good and trewe hert. I am and shal be youre dettor of as gode a torne ageyne another tyme and trustith therto trewely. I sende you by John Twaselton this berer xij^{li} fl. in setillers at iiij^{s} iiij^{d}. I pray you to take it in gre and any thing that I cane do unto ples ye shall fynde it redy by Godes grace who ever preserve you. Writton at Guysnes [a] the laste day of October.

Your tru luffuyng
Rauff Hastynges.

Addressed: To my ful good frende George Cely.

149

Both Thomas and John Dalton address the Celys as brothers. Thomas Dalton's reference to his ship and his 'prisoners' looks like what is now called piracy.

Brother Jorge I pray you as my speciall trust ys in you that ye wyll remember me for to pay to Wylliam Norton of London, draper, for me xl or l^{li} what ye may spare me but for xij or xiiij dayes for I owe hym iiij^{xx} li. of the whyche he hathe a byll of my hand for I loke yevery day for tydynges owte of Holand for my schypp & my prisoners, &, brother, this payment lyeth my pore onestie apon wherfore I beseche you to remember me as my speciall trust ys in yow above all others & by thes my handwryteng I promes yow to answer yow at yewre pleseur what ye delyver the seyd Wylliam.

From yowres to my power
Thomas Dolton.

[a] Guines.

On the Dorse: A remembrans of Thomas Dolton.

Jacob Wylliamsone and hys felow de Delffe [a] .	xiiij[li] xix[s] viij[d] fl.
John Wylliamson and hys fellowy of Laythe [b] .	viij[li] xix[s]
Mauryn Claysson of Laythe	xxvj[li] xvj[s] iij[d] fl.
j den	xxvj[li] x[s] viij[d] fl.
Of Jacob Wylliamson iiij[d] ob.	vij[li] iiij[s] fl.
Item yn ij[d] ob.	iij[li] fl.
iiij[d] ob.	iiij[li] xvj[s] fl.

150

The following Letter is placed separately, having been already published in an article in the 'Gentleman's Magazine,' September 1881. The Dean of York was Richard Andrews, LL.D., installed as Dean January 1451–2; resigned June 2, 1477; died before November 5, 1477. His will was proved on November 5.

Anno lxxvij

Ryght wel belouyd brother. I recomaunde me hertelly to yow. Farthermore, pleese yt yow to wette that I heve ressayvyd from yow a lettar wrette at Calles the xxx day of Octobar. In the weche letter were clossyd iiij letteres of paymentte, werof ij ben dyrect to Rychard Twenge, Mercer of London; bothe lettars contayninge lijti Item, allsso ij lettars of paymentte dyrecte to John Cowlarde, mercer, contaynynge bothe xxti. The days ben longe. I care for nothynge save butt for my fellmen of Barneslay Strette,[c] for thay wyll be nedy and call faste on me for mony er Marche be paste. Brother Gorge, I pray yow speke scharply to John Raunse of gynys [d] for the ferme of Sentercasse,[e] for Wyll[m]. the parsson ys man ys att London, and cawlthe faste on me for money; and alsso I honderstonde that zee haue lentte to the plasse for me xxti. I moste preste here at London xti & hour father xxti. Yt

[a] Delft. [b] Leyden.
[c] Barnsley, St. Mary, Gloucester, on the road between Cirencester and Burford.
[d] Guines. [e] St. Tricaise or St. Tricat.

ys a scherewde werke—God amende yt. Item brother as apon the Sonday afore the datte of thys letter my brother Rycharde Cely & I wer at Pollys Crosse to here the sarmon; and ther we herde forste word that howr uncull the Dene of Yorke ys passyd to God: and the prechar prayyd for hym by name. And ther sate that tyme v bochoppys at Pollys Crosse. No more to yow at thys tyme; bott howr lorde kepe yow. Wrette at London the xix day of November.

By yowr brother

Robart Cely.

A George Cely, marchande of the Staple at Calles, thys be delyvered.

INDEX OF NAMES AND PLACES.

Abynton, Habendon (*Abingdon*), 87, 90
Achamber, Harry, 139
Adam, Hadam, Tomas, 12
Addlyn, Robard, 149
Addyrbery, Attyrberry (*Adderbury*), 27, 79
Adlynton, 157–159, 161
Aldereche, Alderyche, Allderecbe, Aulldryche, Awlderyche, Awllderyche, Wylliam, 174–176, 179, 180, 182, 183, 185, 186
Allvolay, Aulay, Aunelay, Awelay, Hawelay (*Alveley*), 26, 29, 30, 41, 50, 55, 91
Allward, 160
Almans, 110
Alson, Allson, 188
Amerys, Thomas, 149
Andevarpe, Andewarpe, Andwhurp (*Antwerp*), 3, 66, 67, 100, 128
Andreson, Nycolas, 12
Andryan, 118
Ardson, Wylliam, 136, 142
Arnolde, Thomas, 42
Arnoldson, Cornelys, 147
Ary (*Aire*), 108, 109
Aspringe (*Ospringe*), 175
Awode, Rychard, 193
Awrey, Awerey, Awheray, Rychard, 144, 158, 166

Bale, Bawll (horse), 26, 31
Bale, Bayle, Balys, Baledelett, Bale and Delett, Peter, 36, 134, 136, 140, 141, 152, 154, 155
Balling Martt, Balyng Martt, Baming (*Baelen*), 100, 107, 173
Bames Mart, Bammys Marte, Banes Marte (*Bamis* or *St. Rémy*), 2, 36
Barnesley Strette, 204
Barow, Barow Martt (*Borre*), 93, 94, 105, 127, 165, 167
Bartholomeo, John Domynyco, 18
Barwell, Borwell, Wylliam, 41, 192
Barwyke, Berwyke (*Berwick* in Essex), 34, 82, 105
Bathowl, 135
Bawen, Thomas, 186
Bawlsall (*Balsall*), 24
Bayerd (horse), 86, 96, 97, 99, 128
Bell, Robard, 195
Bellson, Wylliam, 4
Beneham, Wylliam, 56
Benett, Thomas, 139
Bentham, Wylliam, 149
Berecke, Robard, 18
Berelay (*Berlaere*), 45
Bernard, Thomas, 156
Berneught, Barbell, 2
Beryffe, John, 196
Bett, 75
Bettsons, Thomas, 72
Blackewall (*Blackwall*), 181
Bland, Thomas, 153
Bloke, de, Jacob, 19
Bocharer, Rychard, 186
Bolen, Bollen (*Boulogne*), 38, 43, 193
Bolonys, Aleamus, 2
Bondmans, 107, 120
Bongay, 54
Bordan, Laryus, 41
Bordeecke, Bordeycker, Burdyche, John, 174–176
Bordewys, Burdews (*Bordeaux*), 174, 186, 187

Borgan (*Bergen* or *Mons*), 31
Borgan, Borgayne, Borgeyne (*Burgundy*), Duchess of, 91, 118
Borgand, Borgayne, Burgeyne (*Burgundy*), Duke of, 8, 109, 112, 115
Borgany's man, 11, 15, 31
Borywell, John, 173
Boston, 134, 135, 153
Botrell, Bottrell, 82, 83, 85, 114, 117
Bott, de, John, 127
Bourgneuff, 198, 199
Boys, Lenarde, 26
Brabon, Braband (*Brabant*), 113, 166, 169
Bradewell (*Bradwell*), 195
Brandon, 73, 74, 78, 82
Bredylsay, Bretylsay, Brekellyssay (*Brightlingsea*), 43, 196
Brege, Breges, Bregges, Breggis, Bregys, Brgys, Brogys, Bruges, Brugys, Bryges, Brygesse (*Bruges*), 1, 5, 7–10, 13, 21, 24, 28, 54, 55, 61–65, 67, 74, 81, 82, 84, 85, 91, 94, 95, 104, 109, 113, 115, 118, 121, 137, 140–142, 144, 146, 153, 161, 164, 166–171, 193
Bregyt, dau. of Edward IV., 46
Bretten (*Bretayne*), 174, 176
Brettes, Brytys, Brytys plase, Byrrtes (*Bretts*), 16, 19, 88, 128
Bretton, Wylliam, 66, 87, 90, 92, 102, 103
Bridport, 53
Brone, Hewe, 15, 16
Brone, Robard, 64
Browell, Wylliam, 35, 59, 74
Brown, Kyrstower, 105
Browny's man, 134
Brugham, Robard, 139
Bryan, Hary, 86, 105, 133
Bryerley, Wylliam, 144
Brystall, Nycolas, 133
Brystow, John of, 178
Burgan, Thomas, 31
Bwrne, John, 154
Bwshay (*Bushey*), 82
Byenan, Robard, 173
Byfelde, 88
Byng (*Busiguy* or *Binche*), 48
Byngham, Syr Robard, 82

Calais, Cales, Caleys, Calis, Callaz, Calles, Calley, Calleys, Callys, Callez, Calz (*Calais*), 1, 5–10, 12–15, 18–21, 24, 26, 28–31, 33, 35–37, 43–46, 48–50, 52–55, 57, 60, 61, 63–65, 67, 68, 73, 76, 78–80, 82, 86–90, 92, 94, 95, 101, 104, 106, 107, 109, 110, 112, 114, 117, 118, 123, 125, 129–131, 134–139, 142, 144, 146, 147, 149, 150, 152, 154, 160–162, 164, 167–169, 173, 184, 187, 194, 196, 201, 203, 204
Cam (*Cadsand* or *Damme*), 164
Cambrez (*Cambria*), 153
Camden, 102
Cardon, Thomas, 186
Cawnttyrberry (*Canterbury*), 175, 177
Cely, George, 36, 37, 61, 142, 147, 151, 157, 166, 174, 176, 184, 185, 187, 192, 193, 197
— John, 10, 21, 64, 128
— Richard the Elder, 12, 13, 56
— Richard, the younger, 1, 2, 4, 8, 11, 16, 17, 28, 30, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37, 40, 43, 44, 49, 66, 70, 77, 83, 84, 90, 92, 123, 125, 131, 134, 142, 147, 151, 166, 171, 172, 173, 174, 176, 193, 194, 205
— Robert, 3, 4, 12, 13, 14, 26, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 46, 93, 193
— William, 23–25, 31, 37, 43, 44, 45, 48, 74, 80, 87, 91, 95, 104, 105, 128, 147, 151, 156, 157, 163, 166, 193
Chamberleyn, Schambyolen, my Lord (*Lord Hastings, Lord Chamberlain*), 55, 97, 98, 107, 108, 111, 116, 117, 118, 119, 125, 132
Chanon, Syr Wylliam, 58
Chapman, John, 179
Charles, 86
Charllys, Dewke, 147
Chary, 74
Chawley, John, 139
Chepyng Nortton (*Chipping Norton*), 105, 128
Chinyer, John, 186
Christoffer, Crystower, 134, 136
Clarke, Thomas, 96, 135
Clays, my sarvant, 127
Claysson, Mauryn, 204
— Nycolas, 12
Clyffton, John, 143
Clyfte (*Cleeve*), 161
Code, Wylliam, 179
Cokesluyr (?), 184
Cokyngham (*Buckingham*), my lord of, 201
Colchester, 42

Cold mart, Colde martt, Cole martt (*Cortemarck*), 107, 148, 173, 174
Collyns, 134
Colton, Thomas, 161, 163
Conket (*Le Conquet*), 198, 199
Constantyne, John, 185
Conyswaye (*Kingsey*), 172
Corsy, Anthony, 159, 163
Cortes, Rychard, 187
Cossyn, John, 194
Cotsold, Cotsowlde, Cottasowlde, Cottesold, Cottesowlde, Cotteswold, Cottsould, Cottysould, Cottysowlld, Cottysowllde, Cottyssowlde, Cottyowllde, Cottyssowolde, Cottyswold, Cottyswolde, Cottyswolld, Cottyswollde, Cotyswold (*Cotswold*), 1, 8, 10, 14–16, 21, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 44, 45, 48, 53, 61, 64, 74–76, 78, 79–82. 86, 89, 90, 92, 101, 102, 104, 124, 138, 172
Cowlarde, John, 204
Crepayge, Kyrpage, Wylliam, 178, 179
Crisp, Cryspe, Rychard, 18, 20
Croke, John, 88
Cryspe, Thomas, 18

Dalton, Dawlton, 36, 59, 74, 85
— Dallton, Dawlton, John, 1, 7, 86, 90, 96, 99, 100, 101, 107, 110
— Daulton, Dawltom, Dawlton, Wylliam, 59, 71, 76, 84, 87, 89, 105, 109, 117, 135, 149
Dane, Syr James, 63
Danes, the, 167
Danyell, Dangell, John, 70, 71, 76
Darryall, Hemonde, 41
Darteford, Derford (*Dartford*), 64
Daulton, Rafe, 59
Daultony's syster, 59
Dave, John, 57
Dawke, Robarde, 178
Decason, Bemyngne, 159, 162, 163
Decastro, Dygo; Decastron, Deago, 161, 163
Defuye, Gabryell, 159
Deinorres, Harry, 24
Delatowr, Gyllam, 176, 177
Delff, Delffe, Dellf, Dellfe, Dellff, Dellffe (*Delft*), 12, 83, 107, 118, 138, 142, 147, 160, 171, 172, 204
Delopis, Delopys, Delowpys, Delowppis, Delowppys, Lowpys, Lowppys, John, 10, 65, 134, 136, 138, 140, 143, 148, 152, 154, 159, 160, 162, 165, 168, 169, 171
Delyte, 198
Demerys, Hary, 25
De More, Lewys, 163
Dene of Yorke, 205
Dennam, Denman, Lord, 144, 145
Deram, John, 139
Derby, 156
Derycson, Arnowlde, 12
Derykson, Deryck, 151
Desall, Romanett, 139
Desers, De Sore, Gomers, 165, 169
Desturmer, John, 30
Desurte, Gabryell, 162
Dewke, the, 52
Dodlay, 157
Dolton, Thomas, 204
Donckyrck, Donkyrke, Dunckyrke (*Dunkirk*), 142, 144, 162, 165
Donsta, 145
Doo, Claysse, 151
— John, 160
Dower, Dowyer (*Dover*), 74, 99, 106 107, 142, 144, 150, 153, 176, 177
Doysse, Thomas, 195
Drynklow, Will, 156
Dugell, Lord, 171
Dulcon, Syr John, 98
Dyebotes, Sir John, 202

Egengton, Ekynton, John, 85, 172
Elderbecke, Ellerbelke, Ellyrbek, John, 85, 172, 191
Eltham, Heltame (*Eltham*), 46, 91
Elton, John, 164
Ely, bishop of, 132
Eryk, Eryke, Erykke, Heryke, Robard, 14, 77, 86, 92, 95, 104, 106, 128
Erythe, Erytte, Herythe (*Erith*), 178, 185
Eschepe (*Eastcheap*), 157
Essex, my lord of, 80, 82
Eston, John, 144
— Wylliam, 3, 14, 21
Ewern, Robard, 72
Ewerynghan, Sir Thomas, 57

Faiwnton, Harrowlld, 54
Fawkene, William, 22
Federston, 57

Fedyan, Fethyan, Fydian, Wylliam, 89, 139
Flaunders, Flaundyrs, Flaundyrsse, Flawnders (*Flanders*), 6, 67, 85, 91, 98, 136, 137, 139, 141, 144, 146, 147, 149, 152, 161 162, 164, 166, 171
Flemying, Robard, 80, 81
Florantynys (*Florentines*), 55
Flords, 127
Former, John, 24, 25
Foskewe, 181, 184
Fowlle, John, 58
Franck, Harry, 155
Froste Foster, John, 78
Fyttyngborn, *see* Sittingborne (*Sittingbourne*), 177

Garnett, John, 155
Garwes, John, 174, 178
Gante, Gaunt, Gaunte, Gent (*Ghent*), 31, 100, 115, 121, 141, 144, 147, 152, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169
Gawysend, Graveshend Gravozend, Grawysend, Gurvoys End (*Gravesend*), 36, 175, 178, 182, 185, 186
Gean (*Genoa*), 87
Gladman, 34
Glosetter (*Gloucester*), Dewk of, 132
Good, Godys, Robard, 44-46, 50
— Goodes, Andrew, 72, 75
Goodman, Syr R., 191
Goos, Geoos, Geyos, *see* Joyce
Grager, Granger, Grayngar, Graynger, Graunger, Thomas, 7, 19, 33, 65, 68, 75, 77, 135, 162, 170
Gravenyng (*Gravelines*), 79, 108, 144
Guynesse (*Guisnes*), 170
Gybson, Steven, 149
Gye, Marten, 199
Gyesbryght, Jacob, 134, 140, 141
Gyesbryghtson, Jacob, 147, 160
Gylle, Gyllys, my prentiss, 180, 181
Gynus, the steward, 191

Hall, John, 194
Hallyngberry, Wylliam, 177
Hamton, Hamtton (*Southampton*), 87, 92, 177
Hankun, 86
Harman, Jacob, 134
Harthe, Jonne, 28
Hatfield, John, 130
Havockym, John, 175
Hawarde, Lord (*Lord Howard*), 133
Hawes, Hawesse, Howes, Andrew, 67, 82, 192
Hayn, Hayne, Haynys, Rychard, 17, 56, 62
Hayre, 61
Hectyr (dog), 79
Hedemond, John, 196
Henley, 98
Henley's wyddowe, 149, 155
Henley, young, 155
Henrycson, John, 12
Henrykson, Gyesbryght, 147, 148
Herzon, Ryscharde, 69
Hewan, Robard, 75
Hobner, Robard, 115
Hody, Gylbard, 195
Holand, Holond, 169, 203
Holanders, 83
Holland, James, 194
Horne, Thomas, 42
Hossyer, Hosyer, John, 17
Howlde Fysche Strette (*Old Fish Street*), 76
Hubbard, John, 170
Hubberd, Robard, 161
Hull, 72, 75
Hyll, Wylliam, 85

Ingudd, 39

Jaccson, Wylliam, 186
Jacobson, Deryck, 147
Jacope, John, 24
Jamys, Robard Stocker's man, 144
Jarfford, James, 149, 161
John, Sir, 106
— — the pryste, 28
Johnson, Arnold, 66
— Deryck, 142
— John, 107
— Peter, 12
Johnsun, Petter, 171, 172
Jon, Harry, 66
Jone, 156
Joye, Peyrs, 134
Joysse, Goos, Geoos, Geyos (Joyce Parmenter), 60, 68, 96, 97, 101, 110, 123, 125, 129, 154

Kay, 78, 80-82
Kenett, Wylliam, 141

Kesten, Kestenys, Thomas, 4, 87
King of Fraunce, 169
— Romayns, 165–169
Knyght, Edmund, 167
Koke, Myhell, 103
— Wylliam, 194
Konettes, Wylliam, 20
Kurforde (*Burford*), 102
Kynges Sotton (*King's Sutton*), 105
Kynton, Roger, 143

Lasse, 91
Laste, John, 156
Laurenson, Garrard, 151
Lawson, Lawsson, Harry, 71
Laybaccar, Assche, 50
Laysetter, Leyc' (*Leicester*), 59, 76, 144, 156
Layth, Laythe (*Leyden*), 90, 118, 150, 151, 153, 204
Lede hall (*Leadenhall*), 11, 16
Legayneard, Robard, 155
Lemryke, 102
Lemster, Will, 156
Lemyngton, Raffe, 148, 149, 193
Lenawlles, Edwhard, 33
Levynge, 128
Lewke (*Liège*), 120, 121
— Bishop of, 120, 166
L. Malyns, Malens (*Little Molands*), 88, 91, 158
Lokyngton, Lokynton, John, 27, 28, 68, 71, 75
Lollay, Lolley, Robard, 181, 187
Lombardys (*Lombards*), 48
Lomberde Strete (*Lombard Street*), 159
London, John, 64
London, 3–6, 8, 9, 12, 15–19, 21, 23–25, 28, 32, 35, 37, 39–49, 53, 55, 74, 75, 79, 89, 90, 96, 99, 102, 104, 105, 111, 112, 115, 118, 122, 125, 129, 131, 134, 140, 141, 144, 155, 158, 159, 161, 165, 169, 170, 174, 179, 194, 195, 203, 204
Long, Thomas, 195
Loutelay, Loutlay, Louttelay, 33, 78, 91
Loven (*Louvain*), 201
Lyll (*Hull*), 75
Lyncolln, Robard, 186
Lynd, John, 193
Lyndys, Wylliam, 71

Malling, Mallyng, Malwin (*Malling*), 42, 195, 196
Margaret's dowghter, 117
Margery, 110
Marget, Lady, 36
Markes, John, 53
Maryon, Mareon, Wylliam, 16, 21, 24, 28, 37, 38, 43, 44, 67, 70, 83, 94, 95, 109, 172, 174, 176, 182, 185–188, 193
— Godfather, 29, 32, 46, 72, 134, 174, 176, 178, 180
— Cousin, 47, 48, 187, 193
Mase (*Meuse river*), 156
Mastoo (*Machecoul*), 198
Mathew, John, 39–40
Maxymelyanus, Dewk, 137, 141, 143, 144, 147
Maydeston (*Maidstone*), 71, 75
Mechelson, Mychellson, Patryke, 42, 176, 178
Medecrost, Thomas, 186
Medewynter, Medeywynter, Medwenter, Mydwynter, Mydwyntter, Mydwynttyr, Mydwytter, Wylliam, 11, 21, 28, 30, 32, 33, 64, 87, 89, 90, 102, 103, 105, 124, 128, 157, 158
Mehyq, Meyqe (hawk), 22, 81
Mekelyn (*Mechlin*), 45, 66
Melcheburne (*Melchbourn*), 81
Mell, John, 20
Meson, 192
Messedawzth, Collard, 155
Messefolde, 57
Molenars, 88
Mondanyell, Mondedanell, Mwndunyellys, 37, 54, 62
Mongewmbre, Mwngewmtre, Mongewnbres, Mongehowmbre, Sur Tomas (*Sir Thomas Montgomery*), 73, 78, 80, 124
More, Lewys, 161
Moreson, Gyesbryght, 151
Morres, Peyres, 178
Moy, Adam, 172
Muston, Wylliam, 139
Myddelborow (*Middleburgh*), 171
Myhall, Mylale (*Millhall*), 42, 194
Myhell, Alyson, 60
Mylezeynde (Mile End), 88
Mylton (Milton), 196

Napwlles (*Naples*), 88
Narslye, John, 135
Newcastell, 55

Newday, Bachett, 185
Newgate, 65
Newhythe, 72, 75
Newportte (*Nieuport*), 146
Nicholas, 127
Nonelay, Thomas, 149
Norlache, Norlagh, Norlay, Norlayche, Norlayge, Nortlache (*Northleach*), 11, 17, 21, 28, 30, 33, 64, 87, 90, 92, 102, 103
Northehamton, Hamton, Hamtton (*Northampton*), 59, 71, 87, 92, 177
Northehombyrland (*Northumberland*), my lord of, 133
Norton, Wylliam, 203

Odenborow (*Oudenburg*), 99
Ostend, Oste end, Oostendd (*Ostend*), 129, 146, 163
Ottson, Henryck, 151
Owerton, Thomas, 57

Palmer, Pamar, Parmar, Paullmar, Paulmor, Gylberde, 15, 20, 31, 54, 59
Parcar, Parkar, John, 19, 77, 107, 134
Parker, Parckar, Wylliam, 181, 187
— Persse, 186
— Rechard, 134
Paynter, John, 184
Pellyggar, 186
Penermarcke (*Penmarch*), 174, 176, 184
Peryman, 161
Perys, John, 17
Peter, Cleys 134
Peterson, Petterson, Claysse, 93, 138, 142, 143, 148
Petter, 50, 152
Pettyt, 102
Phellypp, Phyllyp, Phyllypp, Dewk, 137, 146, 149
Planttan, 38
— Nowell, 38
Plemowthe (*Plymouth*), 187
Plomton, 58, 59
Plulmar, 82
Polys Crosse (*Paul's Cross*), 205
Pont, 166
Porfleyt, Pwrfleyt (*Purfleet*), 178
Pottay, Peter, 194
Pray fayrs, 87
Prestun, 67
Prowde, Wylliam, 196
Pwrssar Rychard, 177
Py (horse), 46, 68, 74, 80, 105
Pypar, John, 196

Radclyffe, Robard, 114
Rade, 75
Raffetemyngton, 135
Ramston, 73, 78
Randofe, Randowlfe, 19, 80
Raunse, Rawns, John, 26, 204
Rawson's dowttyr, 105
Raylay (*Rayleigh*), 124
Raynam, Raynham, Rayname (*Rainham*), 41, 70–72, 75, 76, 80
Rechard, servant to Robard Eyryck, 77
Recherdlay, Wylliam, 43
Redclyffe, 179, 180
Reddman, Alyn, 139
Rederythe (*Rotherhithe*), 196
Redhodes, 12
Reede, George, 133
Remyngton, Rymyngton, 181, 187
Rewars, Rewys, Lord (*Lord Rivers*), 55
Reynold, John, 156, 161, 163
Robyn, 47. *See* Good
Rochester, 175
Rodcliffe, Rechard, 192
Rodes, Rodys (*Rhodes*), 55, 60
Roggers, William, 197, 200
Rome, 69
Rychard the bocher, 187

Sallford, Syr Wylliam, 153
Sallyssebery, Rychard, 179
Samson, Thomas, 186
Sandwiche, Sandwych, Sandwyche (*Sandwich*), 82, 129, 136, 174–176, 178, 179
Sanley, Sauley, Peter, 159, 162
Saunders, John, 162
Sawzear, Rychard, 195
Schestyr's douter, 59
Sclewce, Slewce (*Sluys*), 164, 167, 169
Seland, Selond (*Zealand*), 54, 115, 163, 169, 171, 174, 180, 184
Sellar, Peleppe, Pelyp, Pelype, Phelep, Phelepe, Phelype, Phyllyp, 18, 22–24, 77
— Phelypy's dowter, 24
Senchan marte, Sencyon marte, Sensyon mart, Synksen, Synschon marte, Synysgon mart (*St. John's Mart, Antwerp*), 3, 16, 36, 59, 95, 133, 147

Send Johnys, Johnns, Jonns, Jonnys, Sent Johnys, Jonnys, Sente Jhon, Jonys, my lord of (*Sir John Weston*), 16, 27, 32, 37, 43, 55, 64, 66, 80, 97, 104, 133, 167
Sent Annys lyght, Sent Tanny's (*St. Anne's Light*), 186, 187
Sente Johnys in London (*St. John's, Clerkenwell*), 26
Sentercasse, Sentrycasse (*St. Tricaise*), 170, 205
Sent Nycolas chyrche (*St. Nicolas Church*), 111
Sent Tolowys scryssche (*St. Olave's Church*), 4
Sent Tomers, Tamos, Thomers, Tomers (*St. Omers*) 48, 49, 78, 82, 91, 108, 112
Seysell, Hary, 4
Skoteland (Scotland), 55
Smalmoth, 52
Smethe fellde (*Smithfield*), 122
Smethe, John, 19
Smythe, John, 42
— Wylliam, 160, 166
Solderman, John, 31
Solle, Robard, 172
Sordyvale, Sordywoll, Wylliam, 71, 74
Sotton (*Sutton, in Essex*), 16, 105
Speryng, Speryg, Spryng, Wylliam, 158, 187, 196, 197, 200
Spycer, Thomas, 171
Spynell, John, 18
Stamford, 135
Stappell, Sir Wylliam, 58
Staunton, Harold, 167, 191
Stevenson, Garrard, 151
Stewen, 166
Stocker, Stoker, Syr Wylliam, 16, 37, 44, 89, 113, 146, 202
Stocker's man, 144
Stokar, John, 16
— Robard, 144
Storcke, Gabryell, 179
Strabant, Gnyott, 159
Strossy, Marcy, 159, 162
Strycke, Wylliam, 170
Styrne, John de, 192
Sybson, 170

Tamys, John, 4
Tate, John, 125
— Roberd, 7
Tawbot, Syr Umfry, 46
Tayllar, John, 178
Tayller, James, Jamus, 179, 186
Taylor, Nycollz, 167
Tege, Robard, 194
Temy Strett (*Thames Street*), 185
Temys (*Thames*), 78
Tewek, Rychard, 16
The Tempyll, 88
Thondyrlay Parke (*Thundersley*), 124
Tomas, John, 178
Tomson, Andrewe, 195
Torneys, Turney, Robard, 85, 135
— Wyffe, 191
Townyshend, 183
Trewtall, Robard, 186
Trottar, Trotter, Benett, 80, 191
Twaselton, Twysultton, John, 96, 101, 203
Tyell, Nat, 192
Tymanson, Jacob, 90
Tyrrell, Syr Jamys, 164, 165, 167
Tyrwhyne (*Terouenne*), 49
Tywe, Rychard, 15

Underhay, Underhaye, Vanderhay Wandyrhay, Van Underhay, John, 5, 7, 30, 35, 45, 66
Underwode, Udyr Wode, John, 42, 195

Van de Base, Geneways, 159
— Jacob, 159
Van de Rade, Danyell, 10, 13
— Vanderathe, Peter, 1, 10
Van Dorne, Cornelluz, Cornelys, 2, 10
Van State, John, 192
Van Wensbarge, Wenysberge, Wennysbarge, Wynsbarge, Dehnysbarge, Wan Wynsbarge, Gyshellbryght, Gysbryght, Iyshbryght, 1, 2, 10, 49, 56, 134, 138, 143, 146, 147
Van Winbragh, Wynbarow, Wynesbragh, Gysbreth, 66, 83, 84
Venecke, John, 151
Vyllacys, Charlys, 193

Wad, Wade, Tomas, 157, 176, 178
Walsshe, James, 186
Ware, 38
Westemynster (*Westminster*), 50
Westewell (*Westwell*), 28

Wesylton, 68
Wetherfyldes, 71
Weymouth, 52
Whalldyrswhyke (*Walberswick*), 195
Wharwykeschyre (*Warwickshire*), 76
Whayte, Hary, 12
Whegyn, Hewe, 195
Whegyston, 59
Whenysyans (*Venetians*), 55
Wheston, Syr Wylliam, 63
Whode, Rychard, 193
— Thomas, 191
Whykyng, 74
Whyte, Thomas, 152
Wodelas, Robard, 196
Wyeston, Wyxston, Roger, 59, 144
Wylkyns, Harry, 71, 72, 75
Wyll, 43
Wyllars, Charllys, 76
Wylliam, my lord's chaplain, 65
Wylliamson, Adryan, 150, 151, 153
— Dave, 186, 187
Wylliamson, Jacob, 125, 204
— John, 142, 204
— Rumbold, 164
Wylykyn, 136, 140, 141, 152, 154
Wymbythe, 146
Wymen, 188
Wynchewme (*Winchcombe*), 103
Wysson, Marte (*Whitsun*), 15
Wyxston, John, 107

Ylam, 39
Ynge, John, 149
Yogge, Zoge, Thomas, 186, 187
Yorck, Yorke, Zeorke (*York*), 17, 60, 103, 146
Ypre, Ypur, Ypurs, Ipur (*Ypres*), 109, 112, 141, 167
Ypswyche, Ypyswecbe (*Ipswich*), 112, 115

Zeurke (*York*), my young lady of, 79

LETTERS FROM THE FOLLOWING:

(The Nos. refer to the Letters.)

Adam, Wylliam, 1

Bryan, Harry, 112, 146

Cely, George, 6, 45, 47, 60
— John, 38, 39
— Richard the elder, 7–10, 16–19, 21, 23, 25, 28, 30, 31, 36, 41–43, 58
— Richard the younger, 11, 12, 15, 22, 24, 26, 27, 29, 32–34, 37, 44, 46, 49, 50, 53–57, 62, 68, 70–72, 76–78, 80, 89–91, 106, 108, 110, 126, 127
— Robert, 3, 40, 150
— William, 63, 66, 67, 84–88, 92–104, 107, 109, 111, 115–124, 128–134

Dalton, John, 61, 73, 74
— William, 125

Dolton, Thomas, 149

Eyryk, Robert, 82, 83

Hastynges, Rauffe, 147, 148

Maryon, William, 4, 65, 69, 79, 81, 113
Mydwynter, William, 105

Parmenter, Joysse, 75
Preston, William, 48

Staunton, Harold, 20

Thornburght, Roland, 59

Weston, Sir John, 64

Spottiswoode & Co. Printers, New-street Square, London, E.C.

LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY

RETURN TO the circulation desk of any
University of California Library
or to the
NORTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY
Bldg. 400, Richmond Field Station
University of California
Richmond, CA 94804-4698

ALL BOOKS MAY BE RECALLED AFTER 7 DAYS

- 2-month loans may be renewed by calling (510) 642-6753
- 1-year loans may be recharged by bringing books to NRLF
- Renewals and recharges may be made 4 days prior to due date.

DUE AS STAMPED BELOW

DEC 10 2001
CQ3894
JAN 18 2008

12,000 (11/95)

U.C. BERKELEY LIBRARIES

C022649484

DA20
K8
ser 3
v.1

122228